

Agronomy News Spring 2020

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Weatherwatch

A dry June and July has been followed by 30-40mm of combined rain at the back end of August.

La Nina status: ALERT

Three out of eight models suggest La Nina conditions for spring

IOD current status: NEUTRAL

Three out of six models suggest a negative IOD in early spring

Stripe rust has started

Stripe rust has been found to be severe in a local crop of Yitpi. This is a little bit unusual as Yitpi is normally rated MRMS. However, in this case the foliar impact at the 3-node stage is quite bad. Whilst Yitpi has useful Adult Plant Resistance, this case shows the series of wet days recently was perfect for disease development, and could easily overcome the APR.

We will most likely have to spray Scepter preventatively for two reasons:

1. It is rated MS-S at best
2. Scepter is very widespread (including SA), and after 5 years of growing it we could very well get a change in virulence

Wheat variety	Maturity	Stripe rust rating Vic	Stripe rust rating SA
Catapult	Mid	MRMS	MRMS
Rockstar	Mid	MRMS	MRMS
Yitpi	Mid	MRMS (?)	MRMS
Scepter	Early-Mid	MS-S	MS-S
Razor CL	Early	MS	MS
Beckom	Mid	MRMS	MRMS

Trojan is now considered "S" for stripe rust, due to a mutation of WA strain. **Hatchet CL** and **Emu Rock** are also more vulnerable to this new strain.

These three varieties showed a change in stripe rust sensitivity in the dry year of 2019.

Terminate vetch now

Some vetch on heavy ground will not have enough dry matter to warrant chasing hay, and some vetch crops were always earmarked for brown manuring for fertility, grass management and ground cover

Farming style	Tank mix	Notes
Non/reduced-group B policy	Kombo + Glyphosate + Dicamba	For avoiding accumulation of sulphonylureas Less selection pressure on IMIs
Group B	Kombo + Glyphosate + Metsulfuron + Cobber	Good mix for fleabane also Short residual for caltrop and heliotrope

All of the above mixes have a 7-day withholding period for grazing.

Russian wheat aphid control- chlorpyrifos or Karate Zeon?

Russian wheat aphid made its incursion back in 2016, and became more widespread in 2017. RWA has been filtering around since then, especially where crops are adjacent to barley grass, native perennial grasses and of course, volunteer wheat and barley that are allowed to grow.

We are lucky in one sense that there is plenty of chemical control information out of USA from trials since they found RWA over 30 years ago.

Over there they quickly found that alpha-cypermethrin gave little control, and dimethoate control ranged from 86% control, down to as low as 60%.

There is a complication with RWA in that there are several different biotypes, each with slightly different chemical sensitivities, and we are unsure which biotype we actually have.

Chlorpyrifos has low water solubility and reasonably high soil binding, so it makes a great soil barrier for migration into neighbouring paddocks. Chlorpyrifos does volatilise from leaf surfaces after 7-10 days, but this is a very useful residual time frame. Do not mix chlorpyrifos with 2,4-D or MCPA as there is increased crop effect.

Karate Zeon will be very effective if applied reasonably soon. For high pressure situations, chlorpyrifos is dual action in that it prevents spread to adjacent paddocks.



RWA in barley (left) has more subtle symptoms than wheat

A comparison of the RWA chemicals

	CPF	KZ
RWA	Yes	Yes
Armyworm	Yes	Yes
Barley aphids	Highly likely	Yes, registered
Leaf Residual	Up to 10 days	Up to 10 days
Soil residual	Good	Poor
Beneficials	Harmful	Harmful
Cost/ha	\$6.30	\$4.80
Rainfast	Not stated	6 hours
Performance	Most consistent	Suppression only from boot stage onwards
Use	Permit valid March 2021	Registered

Pulse and vetch seed fungicides

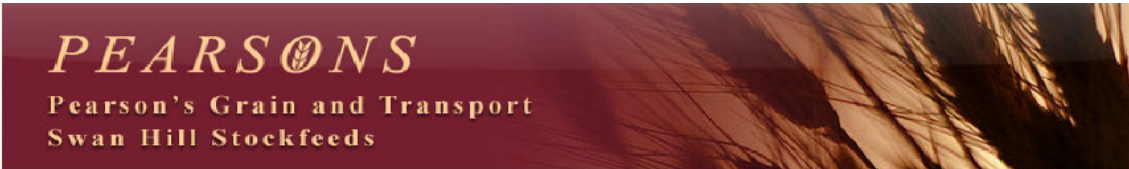
It will be a busy month following the good patch of rain.

Now is the time for *botrytis* grey mould coverage in all lentils and vetch seed crops. These crops are rapidly approaching canopy closure (some already have), so get your **Howzat** carbendazim on. These are SC formulations, so a wetting agent and good water coverage is essential.

Chickpeas will require at least one cover spray of chlorothalonil prior to, or the commencement of podding.



Grey mould in lentils- spray now to avoid this result



Stripe rust fungicides

The recent sequence of rains have been brilliant for restoring crop yield potential, and in doing so it has created an ideal stripe rust environment.

Tebuconazole has now been superceded by epoxiconazole because of better performance and shelf life. Tebuconazole has been somewhat useful in making Veritas and Cogito brews.

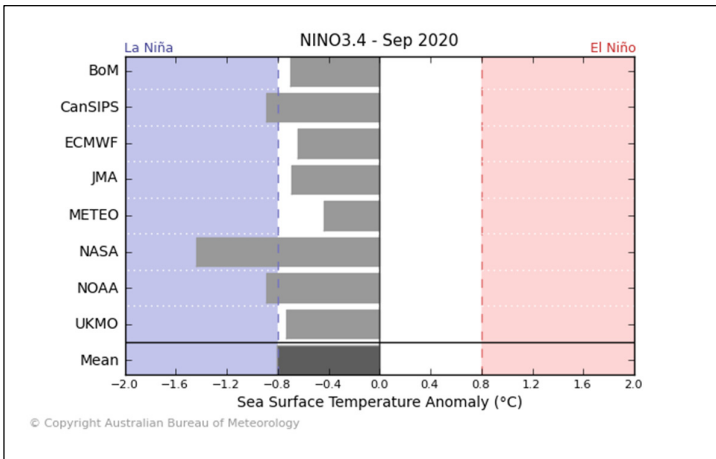
The term “curative” needs explanation- for a fungicide it means it can reduce colonisation if applied within 72 hours of infection.

Epoxiconazole therefore tends to produce better results than tebuconazole if applied just after a shower of rain

Azoxystrobin has the capacity to eradicate some of the spores from germinating- you will see a slight re-greening

Product	MOA	Cost (\$/ha)	Comments
Epoxiconazole 250mL/ha	triazole	8.40	Longer residual than tebuconazole Moves with new growth more than teb. Some <i>curative</i> action
Epoxiconazole 250mL/ha + Azoxystrobin 125mL/ha	Triazole + strobilurin	\$11.76	Radial equivalent For susceptible varieties in moderate to high yield potential paddocks Azoxystrobin extends residual even longer Azoxystrobin has some <i>eradicator</i> activity (eg after a rain event)
Expoconazole 160mL/ha + Azoxystrobin 125mL/ha	Triazole + strobilurin	\$8.74	Cut rate epoxy plus azoxy For MS-S varieties, or MRMS varieties in a higher pressure situation

Paying attention to application technique adds value to the end result- use medium droplets, and 80L of water.



Left: Climate model summary for central Pacific

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