

SCF FOCUS



Events for your Calendar

Thursday 18th June

SCF Research Committee Meeting

Thursday 25th June

Tractor Ride and Drive Day

Thursday 9th July

SCF Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5th August

Western Field Day

Tues 10th - Fri 14th August

AHRI Study Tour

Thursday 20th August

SCF Management Committee Meeting

Thursday 10th September

SCF Management Committee Meeting

Jottings from the Chair



Another seeding has arrived and thankfully rains with it this year! It is great to have the opportunity for a knockdown and to have crops up during May. With good prices for livestock and early pasture growth our region should be set up for a great year.

As this is my first newsletter as chair of SCF I would like to thank John Hood for his efforts in the role over the last two years where the group has gone from strength to strength. Thank you also to Greg Mengler, Mark Slattery and Martin Wiehl, who have left the committee, for their input over the previous years. I would also like to thank Derek Curwen for taking on the role of deputy chair for the coming season. Welcome also Tony Slattery and Andrew Slade to the committee.

With Terry Duke settling into the role of executive officer and John Blake continuing as trials coordinator, the Stirlings to Coast Farmers Group is in good hands.

As mentioned at the AGM the committee has been re-structured to include 5 sub committees to increase efficiency and output. These are, with the coordinator of each group;

- Website – Heather Adams
- Events West – Iain Mackie
- Events East – Shane Greenslade
- Commodities – Mark Adams/Ken Drummond
- Research – Iain Mackie

These will report to the executive committee at each meeting and their benefits have already been seen. If you have any ideas or suggestions that fit into any of the above categories I encourage you to contact either the people above or any of the committee members listed in this newsletter.

As usual, research that will benefit the members of SCF is our main focus, with plenty happening in the areas prioritised by our members, being;

1. Soils: amelioration including physical, chemical, biological
2. Crops and Cropping systems: cereals, oilseeds, legumes – varieties
3. Crop Protection: weeds, disease and insects – including spray technology
4. Farming Systems, Pastures, Livestock

A full program is being planned for the coming season with a machinery day being organized together with our usual field days. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Scott

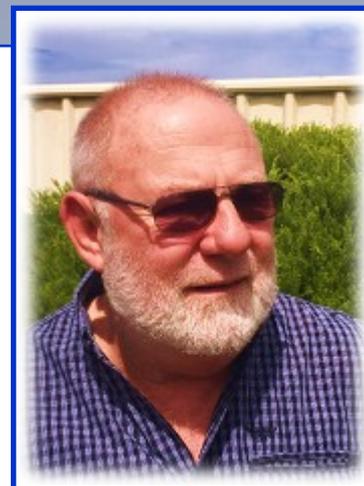
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We would like to thank our Tier 1 Sponsors



A Word from your EO



I would like to welcome Bankwest, Alosca, NAB and Ten Tigers grain marketing services as new Stirlings to Coast corporate sponsors. I look forward to working with our newest members to see how they can support the aims of Stirlings to Coast Farmers.

The new subcommittee structure is up and running with all of the groups having met. The five sub committees are: Research, Events West and Events East, Website and Commodities. In the body of this newsletter, you will find reports from the sub committees on their progress to date.

Over the next few months I will be knocking on a lot of doors seeking new sponsors to support the long term aims of the group. I have recently successfully re negotiated several of our tier one and two sponsorship agreements. What was apparent in each case, was the value that our sponsors see in their partnership with SCF. The members map is an extremely useful tool for me to have to support this aspect of my role, as it, at a glance, shows the extent of our membership. The group profile, that we will be able to develop from Heather's member survey, will be another extremely useful tool to use to promote the group to sponsors, potential members and policy makers.

Terry Duke

0429 965 480

'Events' Eastern Zone

The Events East Sub Committee members are myself, Derek Curwen, John Hood and Mal Thompson. We are responsible for working with Terry Duke and John Blake to organise the Stirling to Coast events in the eastern Zone. Upcoming events we are facilitating are the Tractor Ride and Drive Day on the 25th of June.



This event is unique in that we will have six tractor brands bringing a 4wd and a large hp FWA each. This provides an opportunity to see all different makes and models in the one place to Ride and Drive. Following this we will have beer and burgers.

We are also helping John Blake in organising the AHRI study tour looking into herbicide resistance in early August, should be a fantastic chance to visit leading farmers and researchers.

Any feed-back to the sub committee members following our events would be most welcome and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Shane Greenslade

Events Chair

'Events' Western Zone

This Sub Committee is made up of grower members, including; Andrew Slade, Clare Webster, Mark Bunker, Stephen Beech, Brad McLean, Anthony Hall, Kellie Shields, Keith Wilson, and Iain Mackie, with the aid of John Blake and Terry Duke.

Our purpose is to generate interest and enthusiasm for research and information sharing in the western zone of SCF.

In the last 12 months we have successfully run a couple of field days, have set up large scale variety differential trials, are in our second year of pasture trials, have a long term lime trial underway, and a data information sharing system is being developed.

Contact the members if you are interested and come along to the field day in August. Look forward to seeing you there.

Update On SCF Crop Trials

John Blake SCF R&D Coordinator

Mobile: 0438 761950

Most trials in the region are delivered by research partners and are reported elsewhere. Pasture trials are reported separately. Specific Stirlings to Coast Farmers crop trials include:

Lime efficiency for addressing subsoil acidity – Greg Mengler, Tenterden. This trial was initiated by Greg in 2013 and now has additional treatments of subsoiling lime using a Mouldboard. South Coast NRM funded project.

Evaluation of five different lime sources – Iain Mackie- Kendenup property- trial established this year. Iain Mackie and the Western SCF group with start-up funding from Stirlings to Coast Farmers Inc.

Broad-scale Barley variety trial (East): John Howards - North Manypeaks property

Broad-scale Barley variety trial (West): Jarrad Beech - West Kendenup

Broad-scale High Rainfall wheat variety trial: Brad Wood - West Kendenup



Fig 1: Jarrad Beech with his new seeder completes Broad-scale Barley variety trial (West): in misty rain



Fig 2: Precision seeder trial : Peter and John Diprose's Precision seeder sowed canola at rates down to half a kg per hectare with agronomist Michael Durant

Commodities Sub Committee

Members of the Commodities Sub Committee are Ken Drummond, Ryan Smith, Jeff Stoney and Mark Adams.

Their first task was to meet with Greg Thornton, CBH Albany Zone Manager, in April to discuss the segregations for the coming harvest in the Albany Port Zone. Grower feedback is very important to CBH in determining what segregations to put where, and Greg emphasised the importance of growers submitting their crop estimates to CBH for 2015/16.

The sub-committee will monitor market trends with all commodities to assist the group with making decisions going into the future.

Research Sub Committee

This Sub Committee is made up of 4 grower members: Iain Mackie, John Howard, Alaina Smith and Greg Mengler, 2 industry: Brent Pritchard and Jeremy Lemon, and with the aid of John Blake and Terry Duke.

Our purpose is to receive and make recommendations to and from the SCF committee. We therefore hopefully streamline the process from proposal to the ground. We also have a strategic and management role in ensuring that R & D priorities set by the SCF committee are fulfilled.

We meet prior to each SCF committee meeting so feel free to contact any member directly if desired.

Thank You To Our Agency Partners



Pasture Trials: Optimal pasture phases for crop based rotations: MLA Trial: Host and Growers: John and Ashton Hood

Results to date:

The opening season rainfall was a complete contrast to 2014 with rainfall in the period 8-12 April of >40mm with a total of 60mm for April and 44 mm for May. **The 2014 Pasture trial** has been sown to Canola this year and yields will be measured. The trials on:

1. **sowing methods** (pod application in the 2014 cereal crop vs summer application of pods vs seeding in April 2015)
2. **pasture sowing on clayed areas** have established well.

The sowing methods trial now sprayed and fenced for grazing management.

Fig 1: Santorini Serradella and Santorini plus Bladder clover on clayed area (28 May). Property: John & Ashton Hood



Fig 2: Ashton monitoring emergence on 16 April



Fig 3: Margarita pasture plots after Margarita Serradella pod applied Feb 2015.



Fig 4: Avila pasture plots on 28 May 2015 after Avila pod applied in June 2014 barley crop



Results to date (seedlings numbers at 21 May 2015):

The mild summer saw limited breakdown of seed dormancy in pods as indicated with grower experience in previous seasons. Note: a 2014 Spring germination of some of the enhanced Santorini pod was removed in the summer weed spray as weed management remains a priority. The sowing methods trial is now sprayed for grasses (23 May) and fenced for grazing management. Further testing will help match dormancy levels with time of sowing and seeder modifications are proposed for 2016 season.

Fig 5: Trial on Precision Sowing of Serradella seed: Peter Diprose



Avila pod applied in prior barley crop 9 July 2014 at 34Kg/Ha	>100 plants/sq. m
Margarita pod applied in barley crop 9 July 2014 at 34Kg/Ha	42 plants/sq. m
Santorini (enhanced pod) applied in barley 2014 at 34 Kg/Ha	<10 plants per sq. m
Margarita pod summer applied 17 Jan 2015 at 34Kg/Ha	61 plants/sq. m
Santorini (enhanced pod) applied 17 Jan 2015 at 34 Kg/Ha	<10 plants per sq. m
Bladder Clover (unscarified) summer applied 17 Jan 2015	<10 plants per sq. m
Santorini April sown (de-hulled seed) sown 11 April 2014	>100 plants / sq. m

Acknowledgements: John and Ashton Hood for hosting the MLA trials and Peter Diprose for the Precision sowing trial. The MLA for funding this pasture research.

RCSN (GRDC) project: Rotation Renewal: profitable legume phase options.

Host: Jeff and Kate Stoney, Gnowellen

Measuring the nitrogen benefit of the new hard seeded legumes for Stirlings sandplain (non wetting, acidic with low water and nutrient holding).



Fig 1: Jeff Stoney sowing last plot of Rotations trial (2015 Wheat plots on 2014 pasture plots).

Fig 2: Jeff pleased to be at end of his cropping program in May 2015



Pasture plots were kept ungrazed during spring to maximise pod set and plots were all sampled to get measurement of pod yields (kg per hectare). *Note: Plots of Margurita Serradella ranged in pod weight from 400 -840 Kg/Ha . All plots spray topped after pod set completed. Jeff has now sown the 2014 pasture trial to Mace Wheat in 2015.*

SCF Website

One of the next priorities for Stirlings to Coast Farmers is the development of a website. A website sub-committee has been formed with members Martin Wiehl, Christine Howard, and Heather Adams.

They are working with website designer Eva Bett from Virtual Synchronicity and the process will take several months. The aim is to develop a site that is easy to use, contains relevant and useful information, and is easy to keep up to date. If you have suggestions for what should be included on the site please send Heather a message on 0428 541051.



2014 Stirlings to Coast Farmers Herbicide Resistance Testing

Jeremy Lemon, DAFWA Albany

Stirlings to Coast Farmers has completed its fourth year of group herbicide resistance testing. In 2014, 16 growers submitted 43 ryegrass and 10 radish samples. Most samples were collected from barley and wheat paddocks. All 32 barley paddocks were grown on canola stubble – 17 paddocks from 6 growers on RR canola, 7 paddocks from 6 growers on TT canola and two paddocks unspecified canola stubble. Twelve samples were taken from wheat paddocks grown on pasture, RR canola, and oats.

Most growers rated their weed control in sample paddocks as good, with only one rated poor, the others were good to average. Paddocks were also rated 1-5 by the collectors with 1 being very low weed density (7 paddocks) and 5 as lost control. 17 paddocks were rated as 2 (scattered about 1/m²) and 16 as 3 (frequent about 1-10/m²).

Harvest weed seed management was varied but not a lot of responses. Techniques used include windrow burning, Harrington Seed Destructor, bale direct but no mention of chaff carts from participants.

SCF has gained a reputation as leading southern areas in herbicide resistance management led largely by this cooperative resistance testing program serving both individual growers and the group as a community.

Of the ten **wild radish** samples tested, all but one have moderate to high resistance to Intervix, two have emerging and one moderate resistance to 2,4-D amine. Samples with low levels of 2,4-D survival come from 3 properties. All samples this season are susceptible to atrazine, diflufenican, the standard glyphosate rate and bromoxynil.

code	atrazine	Intervix	diflufenican	2,4-D amine	glyphosate 548 gai/ha	bromoxynil
150489	0	51	0	0	0	0
150490	0	0	0	0	0	0
150491	0	28	0	0	0	0
150492	0	5	0	4	0	0
150493	0	3	0	0	0	0
150494	0	50	0	0	0	0
150495	0	16	0	9	0	0
150496	0	24	0	0	0	0
150497	0	48	0	4	0	0
150498	0	8	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Percent survival of individual radish populations to herbicides from 2014 SCF survey.

Ryegrass results this season are concerning. 28 samples show some level of resistance to the standard glyphosate rate including 8 samples with more than 20 per cent survival. Six samples show some level of resistance to the double rate of glyphosate. There are higher levels of resistance to glyphosate than either Select or Factor.

2014 Stirlings to Coast Farmers Herbicide Resistance Testing

...continued

Jeremy Lemon, DAFWA Albany

code	atrazine	trifluralin	Boxer Gold	Select	Factor	glyphosate 648 gai/ha	glyphosate 1296 gai/ha	paraquat
150444	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
150445	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150446	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
150447	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0
150448	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
150449	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
150450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150451	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0
150452	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150453	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150454	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
150455	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0
150456	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0
150457	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0
150458	0	0	0	2	8	11	0	0
150459	0	0	0	20	2	5	0	0
150460	0	0	0	15	19	8	0	0
150461	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0
150462	0	0	0	3	7	7	0	0
150463	0	0	0	5	8	13	0	0
150464	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0
150465	0	0	0	5	2	27	0	0
150466	0	0	0	2	4	6	0	0
150467	0	0	0	2	5	12	0	0
150468	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150469	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0
150470	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
150471	0	0	0	16	33	0	0	0
150472	0	0	0	0	0	20	2	0
150473	0	0	0	4	10	27	3	note
150474	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	note
150475	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
150476	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
150477	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0
150478	0	0	0	17	25	95	42	0
150479	0	0	0	23	17	73	18	0
150480	0	0	0	0	2	8	2	0
150481	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
150482	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0
150483	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
150484	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150485	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
150486	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Percent survival of individual ryegrass populations to herbicides from 2014 SCF survey.

The cell colour codes are:

- yellow = emerging resistance
- orange = moderate resistance
- red = highly resistant.

Two table cells for paraquat are not completed yet as retesting will confirm status.

Can we have confidence in the results? A few people have been surprised by herbicide resistance test results without any level of resistance. SCF has addressed this concern by sending duplicate samples for testing. Two samples of ryegrass collected in 2013 which growers suspected of being resistant but tested susceptible were resubmitted to the testing service used in 2013 and 2014. The results from both years of testing the same samples were identical – no resistance. Five duplicate samples collected in 2014 have been sent to an alternative testing company with results to come.

We trust the duplicate testing gives members confidence in the results.

Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI)

When Airbus delivered the first A380 aircraft in 2008 they were very proud of the fact that it was the quietest commercial airliner ever produced. The unintended consequence of this, however, was that it led to a worse experience for passengers as more unpleasant noises (e.g. crying babies, snoring passengers, flushing toilets) were elevated in the quieter cabin. Back to the drawing board! They actually engineered some sound back into the cabin by piping in ambient noise.

When ConsultAg agronomist Garren Knell tackled a high ryegrass seedbank with one of his clients in southwest Western Australia 12 years ago, they opted to introduce legume based pasture and triazine tolerant canola into the rotation. They took an aggressive approach to managing the ryegrass seedbank and it payed off. The unintended consequence, was one of Australia's first populations of simazine resistant silver grass.

Garren sampled some silver grass in 2014 and Dr Mike Ashworth (former AHRI researcher) confirmed that it was highly resistant to simazine. The population was in fact more than 594 fold resistant. Genetic testing revealed that the mechanism for resistance was a common one that often gives high level resistance.

The rotation Garren's client adopted resulted in 8 applications of triazine in 12 years. The ryegrass received double knocks in the form of grazing, spray topping and clethodim. The silver grass avoided these second knocks, and on reflection, the triazine herbicides were the only tool used in 8 of the 12 years for silver grass control.

This goes to show that when our eye is on the world champion of resistance, annual ryegrass, it is pretty easy to inadvertently evolve resistance in another weed. So what other herbicides are still available for this population?

Dose response

The only way to kill this population of silver grass (*Vulpia bromoides*) with simazine is to sit the drum on top of them. Greater than 594 fold resistant is seriously high level resistance. 100% of silver grass plants survived 12,800 gai/ha simazine.

About silver grass

- Mostly self-pollinating
- Very small seed. Typically does not emerge from deeper than 50mm
- Residue can be allelopathic
- Not controlled by most grass selective herbicides (AC Case)
- Common weed of pasture. Avoids spray topping by early seed set. Unpalatable to livestock.
- Common species include *Vulpia bromoides*, *Vulpia myuros*, & *Vulpia muralis*

Story of the field

The field near Pingelly in Western Australia had very high ryegrass numbers in 2002. Agronomist, Garren Knell, along with his clients made a plan to use a rotation that included sub-clover pasture, triazine tolerant (TT) canola and cereal to get on top of ryegrass numbers. This rotation and herbicide rotation strategy worked well and the ryegrass is now at very low numbers.

Simazine or atrazine was used in 8 (9 if we include metribuzin in barley in 2006) of the 12 years of this rotation. The ryegrass in this field was exposed to second knocks of grazing, spray

topping and clethodim. Silver grass is unpalatable to livestock, sets seed earlier than ryegrass, and is not controlled by clethodim. Consequently, the silver grass in this field effectively avoided the second knocks.

Target site

The target site identified in this study was the Serine – 264 – Glycine mutation (Ser-264-Gly). This target site is a common mutation that gives high level triazine resistance in a range of weed species. The gene for this resistance mechanism is maternally inherited, so the genes will not flow in pollen. Growers are therefore likely to find hot spots of triazine resistant silver grass as this limits spread.

Fitness penalty

The Ser-264-Gly mutation commonly causes a fitness penalty in other weed species. This fitness penalty appears to have also occurred for this population of silver grass as indicated by reduced biomass of the resistant Pingelly population compared to the susceptible populations (S1, S2 & S3). This is anecdotal only as a full fitness study was not undertaken.

Other herbicides?

This population was tested with a range of herbicides. Fortunately, most of them still work. It is common for simazine resistant weeds to also be resistant to atrazine and metribuzin.

Why does Diuron work?

Diuron is a herbicide that inhibits photosystem II (Group C herbicides in Australia), as are simazine, atrazine and metribuzin. So how can Diuron kill these simazine resistant plants? Diuron binds to the same enzyme as simazine, at the same binding site, but it forms bonds to slightly different amino acids. Diuron can still bind to the binding site when there is a Ser-264-Gly mutation but simazine, atrazine and metribuzin cannot. There has rarely been documented cross resistance between the triazine herbicides and Diuron.

Paraquat resistance

Silver grass has evolved resistance to paraquat in other states of Australia. It may be tempting to heavily rely on paraquat if triazine herbicides are failing, however, it is important not to rely solely on one herbicide as it will fail as well.

Options

There are herbicide options for this field. The possible use of propyzamide in pasture followed by early spray topping is one option. Switching to glyphosate tolerant canola is another, and it will be important to investigate the best pre-emergent herbicide option for the cereal phase of the rotation, possibly in a mix with diuron.

As far as non-herbicide tools go, two of the main options are soil inversion to bury the small silver grass seed, and enhanced crop competition (especially given the fitness penalty of triazine resistance).

Conclusion

Unintended consequences are, as the name implies, unintended. It is easy to look at the story of this field and be critical of the over use of triazine herbicides for silver grass control. Double knocks are an important tool for managing resistant weeds and preventing resistance. The silver grass in this study managed to escape the second knocks and triazine resistance was the result. Fortunately for the rest of us, they were on the front foot with sampling and contacting AHRI researchers, and we can all learn from their experience.

Deep Ripping On Deep Sand: Iffy Downs, Kojaneerup

Jeremy Lemon, DAFWA Albany

A clayed paddock of deep sand at Iffy Downs had 8 runs of deep ripping in March 2014 alternating with unripped strips. The ripping was with a 40 foot unit to a depth of 30 to 35 cm. The sowing and harvesting operations matched the ripping runs, enabling a careful analysis of the barley yield map. During the growing season there was no visual evidence of a ripping benefit. There were however many patches of much better growth on old rotting tree roots showing deeper root growth and less compaction than the rest of the paddock which indicates the potential of the soil type. Hand cuts of the better areas showed nearly double the grain yield of adjacent crop in a medium to poor part of the paddock.

Poor areas yielding less than 2 t/ha mostly have pale sand deeper than 1 m and better yielding areas have gravel and clay starting at 40 to 70 cm depth. Compaction was evident from hand digging, observing the depth of crop roots and penetrometer readings.

Analysis of yield map data showed up to 330 kg/ha yield benefit from the ripping. The benefit was greatest on the better yield zones and no improvement on the lowest yielding zone. While we are keen to lift yields on the poorest parts of a paddock there has been no response in 2014. The sand is compacted to about 50 cm depth, and while the ripping increased root depth they were still constrained above the remaining compaction at depth. Previous work on similar soils shows that for best results the full depth of compaction needs to be loosened to allow roots to grow into softer soil below the compacted zone to extract water and nutrients from depth.

Table 1: Average 2014 barley yields of six alternate runs of ripping to 35 cm and no ripping within four yield zones on 60 to 100cm of pale sand over gravel and clay at Kojaneerup.

zone	low west	med track	high centre	high east	entire runs
average ripped t/ha	2.30	3.21	4.38	4.21	3.28
average nil rip t/ha	2.24	2.90	4.05	3.88	3.01
Benefit t/ha	0.06	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.27



Figure 1: Yield map of the deep ripping trial site showing yield variation and zones chosen for data extraction. Lower 4 and top 5 runs from this area have been removed from analysis.

Deep Ripping On Deep Sand: Iffy Downs, Kojaneerup

continued...

Jeremy Lemon, DAFWA Albany

2015 work

The site will continue for several years to measure the residual effect of ripping and the value of deeper ripping. The trial layout allows for future alternative treatments to be incorporated. In 2015 the whole paddock has been limed with 2 t/ha and offset ploughed to better incorporate clay. Only two plots were ripped to 50 cm and the paddock sown to canola. Soil sampling to 1m indicates very low potash, phosphorus, sulfur and OC levels on the poorest areas and pH remains a bit low as well but the better paddock areas have good K and pH levels. Penetrometer measurements will be taken later this season.



Figure 2: Hand excavation of a ripped area in April 2014 showing the tine marks in the subsoil, and the depth of penetration. The surface was relatively undisturbed.

Figure 3: 2014 barley crop on 1 September on the western end of the trial site. There was no visible effect of ripping but 'lumps' of better crop were over old rotting tree roots in the ground.



Membership Survey

For our group to continue to grow we need strong support from sponsors and funding bodies. We know that we have a dynamic and progressive membership base but we would like to put some numbers together to back that up. To that end you will receive a call from me some time over the next 2 months, and hopefully you will be happy to answer some general questions about your farming operation. All information will be kept confidential and no names will be included. Questions could relate to areas, enterprises, machinery, employees, who you do business with and priorities for research. Our intention is to put together a database that will assist with making a strong case for ongoing and increased support for the group from the private sector, as well as reinforcing the groups credibility to researchers, agency partners and funding bodies.

Talk to you soon

Cheers Heather



2014 SCF Canola Survey Observations

Jeremy Lemon, DAFWA Albany

The canola survey only included 48 paddocks from 13 members last season with 35 responses to yield information on the surveyed paddocks.

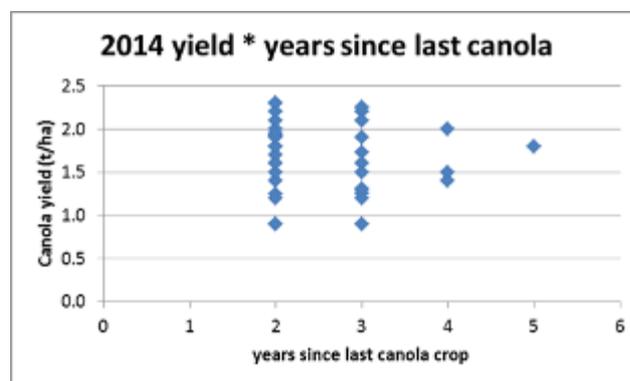
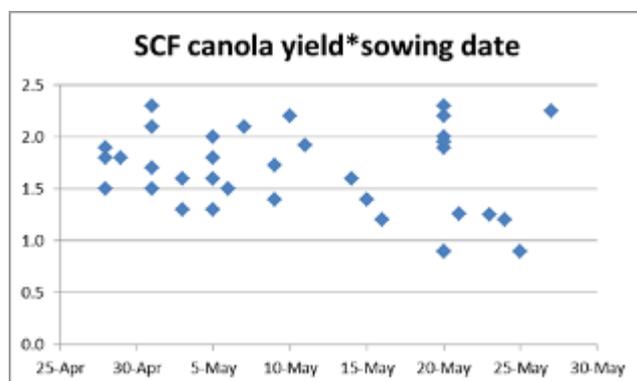
As with all smaller surveys, the results can only be observations rather than conclusions as the sample size together with the numerous interacting factors is not enough to draw firm conclusions.

26 paddocks were Roundup Ready, 19 triazine tolerant and 3 Clearfield.

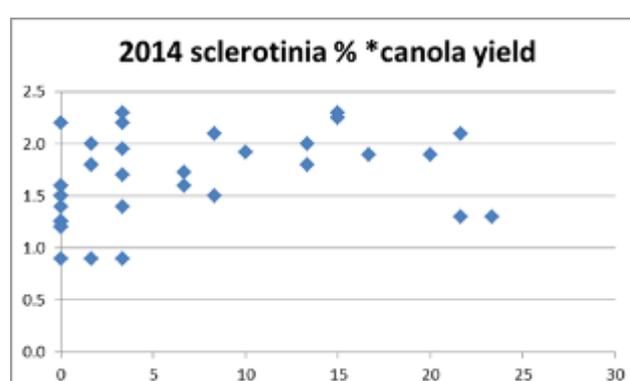
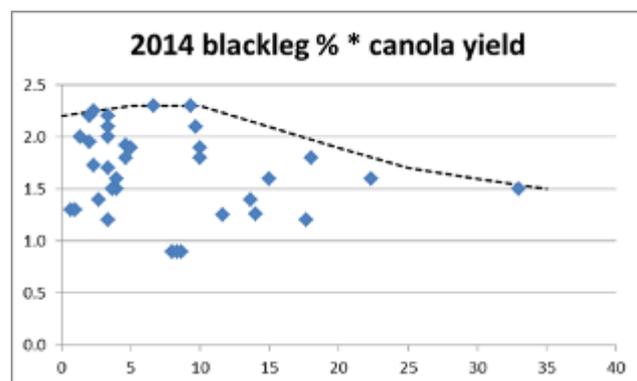
Most paddocks (30) were sown after a one year break, 14 after 2 years and 3 and 1 after 3 and 4 year breaks. There was no relationship between number of break years and yield with an equivalent distribution of yields whether two or three years after the last canola crop.

Stubble and weed seed management was varied with 5 members burning windrows, two (western areas) crunching stubbles with a roller, one participant using a chaff cart and one Harrington Seed Destructor.

Sowing time had some influence on yields but again many more factors come into play. High yields were achieved with later sowing in western areas, only one paddock with 2.1 t/ha was reported from Kojaneerup (east).



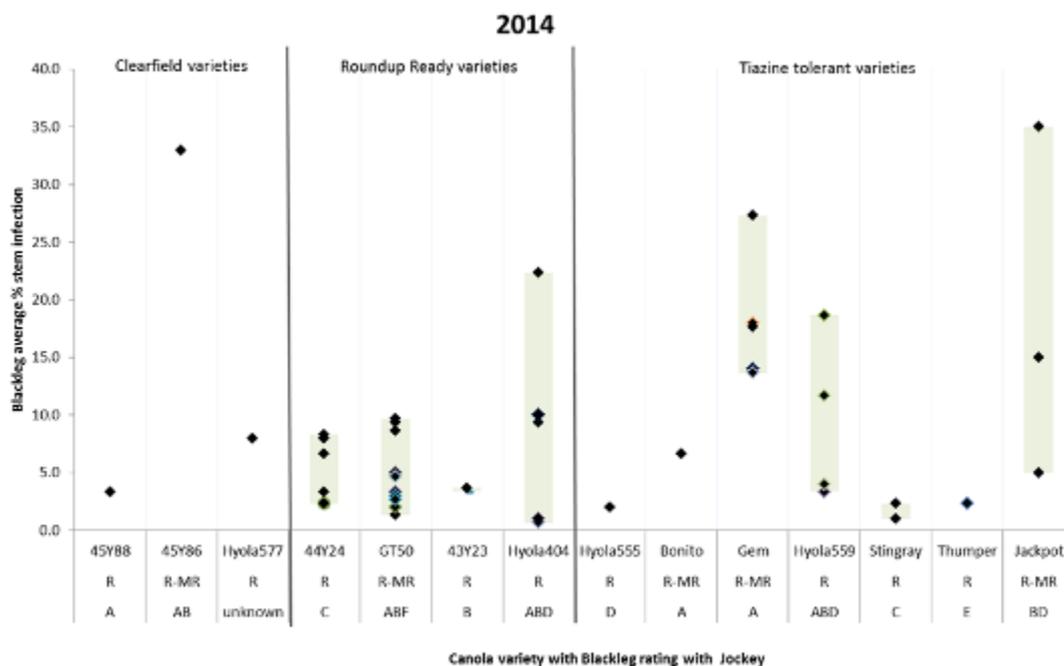
The level of disease had limited influence on yield. Highest yield were achieved in crops with lower levels of blackleg but lower yields were also observed at similar low levels (other factors). There was no relationship between sclerotinia levels and yields reported.



2014 SCF Canola Survey Observations

continued...

Jeremy Lemon, DAFWA Albany



Varieties listed R mostly had blackleg levels lower than 10% except Hyola 559 and Hyola 404, both group ABD. R-MR varieties had generally higher levels over a wide range of 2-35% stem infection.

Kurt Lindbeck (NSW Ag, winter Ground Cover edition) comments that early sowing followed by a wet winter can lead to blackleg stem and pod infection which was observed locally in 2013 and was a likely contributor to yield losses. See the [blackleg article](#) on the GRDC website. This SCF survey rates blackleg stem canker and misses the effects of later season infections.

The principles of successful canola crops, while not well illustrated by the wide SCF surveys, are soundly based on controlled comparisons;

- Sow early but appropriate to variety maturity and flowering time
- Select only R and MR varieties, trying to mix and rotate resistance groupings
- Use seed and/or furrow fungicides
- Rotate by large blocks to limit area of crop close to last season's stubble
- 2 year breaks with a solid legume pasture year are better than one cereal year
- Control sclerotinia (easily said)
- Attention to crop protection and nutrition

The [GRDC Blackleg management guide](#) has been recently updated and includes a list of resistance groupings of older varieties.

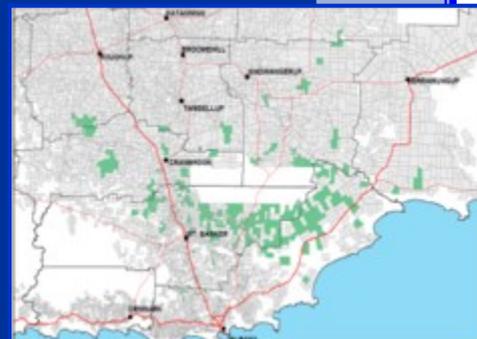
SCF MEMBERS MAP

Thanks to Jeremy Lemon and staff from DAFWA, we now have this 2014 members map. It shows the distribution of the SCF membership as well as where the group could seek new members.

I have sent it to our current sponsors and as soon as it is updated for 2015 (after June 30th) I will forward it to them again. I will use it extensively when talking with new sponsors, and along with the group profile, will be a powerful tool in attracting new sponsors and members to SCF.

The updated map will be published later in the year. We will need to develop a process for updating the map, either when current members add new locations to their holdings or when new members join.

Cheers Terry



Tips and Tools for Managing Sclerotinia in 2015

Key points

Management strategies to help control sclerotinia stem rot in 2015:

- Clean or grade any retained canola crop seed from last season showing signs of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (or sclerotia) fungus - or use new clean seed
- Avoid planting canola on or near paddocks that have had high sclerotinia levels in the past three years
- Use non-host break crops, such as cereals, field peas and faba beans, on high risk paddocks
- Use recommended canola sowing dates and rates for the district
- Have foliar fungicides on-hand and ready to apply at optimum flowering stage (20-30 per cent flowering or 50 per cent flowering when epidemics are late).

Regional risks for sclerotinia stem rot incidence and severity across WA and decisions about whether and when to use foliar fungicides in season 2015 will depend on a range of factors.

Latest information stemming from GRDC-funded pioneering epidemiology and disease management research work carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) show these risks are based on:

- Crop rotation history
- Disease incidence in the last affected crop
- Distance from 2014 affected crops
- Weather factors leading up to the production of apothecia
- Percentage of petal infection
- Conditions favourable for stem infection.

Led by canola pathologist Dr Ravjit Khangura, with GRDC funding, DAFWA researchers will continue to monitor the spread, severity and management of sclerotinia across the WA grainbelt as season 2015 unfolds.

The focus is on: determining yield losses from disease; the efficacy and profitability of crop management practices; fungicide use and timing; and an ongoing assessment of spore release, petal infection and stem rot levels to improve epidemiological knowledge.

Sclerotinia risk for WA crops in 2015

Sclerotinia incidence was widespread across WA in 2014, but less favourable conditions after flowering in many areas of the State confined economic losses to about \$23 million.

That was less than half of the estimated \$59 million worth of production lost in 2013, when the worst affected regions reported crop yield reductions of 0.5-1 tonnes/hectare.

Bayer CropScience technical adviser north, Rick Horbury, told the recent West Midlands Group GRDC-DAFWA Regional Crop Update meeting that of concern for 2015 is that *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (or sclerotia) fungus from seasons 2013 and 2014 will have survived in the soil.

Each sclerotia can produce up to 15 mushroom-like apothecia that release millions of spores to infect leaves and petals if conditions are right during the growing season.

In the northern agricultural region last year, apothecia - after initial emergence from the soil - started releasing spores and there was infection observed on crop leaves within 10 days.

About three weeks after apothecia emergence, with wet and humid conditions, the disease progresses there is an increase in petal infection and then stem infection and rot occurs.

Rick says early apothecia emergence, before significant leaf infection, is decision-making time and (in his experience during the past three seasons) crop yields will drop by about 0.5 per cent per hectare for every 1 per cent of crop infected (across all canola varieties).

Triggers for sclerotinia development and fungicide decision-making

- Temperatures of 10-15°C in the soil suit sclerotia-producing, mushroom-like apothecia
- More than 40mm of rain and 75 per cent humidity in the three week period before and after early canola bloom can kick-start spore release from apothecia and petal infestation
- In WA, experience has shown 25mm of rain after initial flowering is enough to start spore release and infection in northern regions
- About 18-36 hours of continual leaf wetness is essential for initiation of infection events
- Air temperature does not seem to be a limiting factor for spore release and stem infection development in WA
- In the northern agricultural region in 2014, disease severity increased when wet spring conditions returned - despite a long dry spell in winter and maximum air temperatures above 30°C for a few days.

Deciding whether and when to spray

Dr Khangura says if there is a wet start to the season and spore production occurs - but then conditions become drier at the time of flowering - there may be no need to apply fungicides.

But fungicides may be needed if wet and humid conditions prevail, especially at time of flowering.

If the forecast is for dry conditions at a particular bloom stage, there may be no need to do a second treatment.

Rick has devised a 'watch and act' scenario planner for sclerotinia development and fungicide planning in WA - based on levels of risk – and presented this to the West Midlands Group Update meeting (See Table below).

He says if a property starts climbing from low risk to adjacent or high risk, it is time to budget for some fungicide application – and late sprays can be economic under disease-conducive conditions.

<p>ENDEMIC: Consistent economic losses (30%+ infection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and rotational experience of disease Sclerotes present in the paddock at high levels Apothecia emerge every year in crop Adjacent paddocks also have high incidence Leaf lesion (Petal infection) frequency is high Plant to plant (leaves, stem) infection is high and not uncommon to see infection initiating between contacting leaves First sprays crucial at ~20% flower and likely to warrant a 2 spray strategy in a season above 1.5 t/ha yield potential. 	<p>HIGHLY ADJACENT (10-30% infection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddock has had low disease previously and/or adjacent paddock (50-100 m) has had high levels Sclerotes may be present in the paddock at low levels? Apothecia found easily in adjacent paddock of cereal with previous history but hard to find in crop Leaf lesion frequency may be moderate to high but disease will initiate under ideal conditions Plant to plant infection occurs as primary infection takes off A well timed single spray from 20-50% will most likely be economic with potential second application under high pressure
<p>MODERATELY ADJACENT (0-10% infection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddock has had no disease observed previously Apothecia can't be found Adjacent paddocks with previous history within 200-500 m Leaf lesion frequency low to moderate. Disease may initiate under ideal conditions most likely during mid flowering Spray economics dependent on conditions and yield potential A single spray at 20-50% may be required under conducive conditions to prevent paddock building an endemic sclerote bank in the soil. 	<p>LOW RISK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No history in area Apothecia can't be found. Low rainfall region with extended dry periods and open low yielding canopies. Economic response unlikely

Table: Sclerotinia evolution in WA, stages of disease frequency and pressure

Source: Rick Horbury, Bayer CropScience technical adviser north.

Fungicide options

Foliar fungicides are effective against sclerotinia, but cost about \$25-50/ha per application.

Registered fungicides for managing sclerotinia in canola can be found on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) PubCRIS database at: <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris> and smartphone application.

These include products based on the actives iprodione or procymidone or the mixture of actives prothioconazole + tebuconazole (Prosar@).

Dr Khangura says use of fungicides will be determined by:

- Inoculum presence
- Conducive conditions for disease development (including rainfall and crop biomass levels)
- Crop growth stage
- Crop yield potential
- Canola prices.

Previous DAFWA research has found that in 'typical' seasons, a single fungicide application at 20-30 per cent flowering is often effective in reducing yield losses from sclerotinia by preventing main stem infections.

In some districts with a history of high levels of stem rot and high crop yield potential, a second application may be cost effective if weather conditions continue to remain favourable for disease development.

More information

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Ravjit.khangura@agric.wa.gov.au

Grass control options in Canola

During the 2014 season Elders conducted two trials on Trevor and Karen Pieper's property at Kamballup. The first trial was looking at grass control options in different canola herbicide systems, using the variety Hyola 525 RT, which is both Triazine tolerant and Roundup Ready. The trial was set up so that we could look at just the pre-emergent options, then combinations of both pre-emergent and post emergent options and then post-emergent treatments. There was quite a bit of variation between treatments, however not all statistically significant, which is often the case when conducting weed control trials as it hard to get a uniform distribution of weeds, and therefore a lot of variation between replicates.

Pre-emergent: Most of the pre-emergent treatments were not significantly different from each other, with atrazine performing the best (good soil moisture early), followed by Dual Gold, trifluralin then propyzamide. A new chemical which is still in the development phase, FMZ1204 from Adama did perform very well (best of pre-emergents), as it did last year in our trials at Hood's, so watch this space with that one. Two products that did perform significantly worse than atrazine were Terbyne and Boxer Gold (not registered in canola).

Pre-emergent + Post-emergent: These combinations threw up the most interesting results. There was significant differences between treatments, with anything that got sprayed with clethodim being significantly worse than anything that got sprayed with glyphosate, regardless of whether it had a pre-emergent herbicide or not. The reason for this was that the clethodim was sprayed too late, and caused major flowering damage, which highlights the importance of getting clethodim timing right. The worst plot which got sprayed with 1000ml of clethodim (not registered) only yielded 500 kg (1300kg down on the top yielding plot). The plots that yielded the highest were those that had a combination of both Atrazine and Glyphosate, achieving 100% ryegrass control

Barley Variety x Fungicide x Plant Growth Regulator

The second trial that we conducted was a barley variety x fungicide x plant growth regulator trial. Varieties were chosen for certain traits to try and ascertain the effectiveness of the products that we used, Systiva, Radial & Marvel. Bass was chosen due to its susceptibility to barley leaf rust so that we could evaluate both Sestina (fungicide seed dressing) and Radial (Asoxystobin + Epoxiconazole). Buloke was selected due its poor head retention, so that we could see what effect plant growth regulator Marvel had on head retention. GrangeR was selected as a check, for its good disease resistant and good head retention, and Maltstar was included to evaluate its agronomic traits as it is a new potential malting variety that is in the pipeline.

The trial was reasonably complex as we looked at all of the different combinations of products over each variety; therefore each replicate had 32 treatments. Yield and head loss were measured at harvest and disease infection was observed during the growing season

Each variety had the following treatments; Untreated Control (UTC), Systiva, Marvel, Radial, Systiva + Marvel, Systiva + Radial, Marvel + Radial, Systiva + Marvel + Radial. We certainly ended with some interesting results, both within treatments (varietal influence) and between treatments. I have picked out the highlights of the trial (all statically significant differences)

- GrangeR yielded significantly higher than all other varieties in the UTC
- Bass had a positive yield response to fungicide (1 t/ha+)
- Buloke had a positive yield response to Marvel (600 kg/ha+)
- There was no yield difference between Systiva (seed dressing) & Radial (Z31+Z39)

I would sincerely like to thank the Piepers for allowing Elders to conduct the trial on their property. I would also like to thank Stirlings to Coast Farmers for allowing us to present our canola trial at their spring field day.

Both trials threw up some very interesting information, particularly when you drill down further into the information that was collected. If you would like yield data and other observations don't hesitate to contact me.

Jake McGuire
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Watch and Be Prepared To Act On Cereal Rust

It is recommended WA growers and advisers closely monitor advanced cereal volunteers and emerging cereal crops for the presence of leaf rusts (*Puccinia triticina* and *Puccinia hordei*) this season – along with other rust diseases, viruses and pests.

The advice comes after autumn rain events in some areas of the wheatbelt have generated volunteer regrowth and weeds. There is potential risk that this 'green bridge' may harbour rust and other disease-inoculum.

To mid-May there have been no reports of wheat rusts received, but with Mace plantings expected to dominate the State's cropped area this year - and new strains of cereal leaf rust identified in 2013 - monitoring of wheat crops will be particularly important.

There was limited impact of the new leaf rust strains affecting last year's wheat and barley crops due to dry conditions and lack of a green bridge going into 2014.

But despite low inoculum levels and a dry summer period, autumn rain events this year have been more favourable in some regions and provided potential opportunities for rust survival into 2015.

Infection at early crop growth stages may require fungicide intervention to stem potential yield losses.

Mace and the new leaf rust strain

Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) trials (with artificial inoculum) in 2014 found Mace was more susceptible to WA's newest wheat leaf rust strain (called 76-1,3,5,7,9,10,12+Lr37) than the previous dominant strain of leaf rust in this State (called 104-1,(2),3,(6),(7),11+Lr37).

The new strain, from eastern Australia, was first identified in WA in 2013 by Professor Robert Park, head of the GRDC-funded Australian Cereal Rust Control Program (ACRCP), from samples collected right across WA's grainbelt in conjunction with DAFWA.

DAFWA plant pathologist Geoff Thomas says Mace has been characterised as moderately susceptible (MS) to this strain.

He says in the department's 2014 glasshouse and field trials, funded by GRDC, Mace exhibited susceptible (S) response under glasshouse conditions and MS adult response in field conditions to the new strain.

In a field site where high disease pressure was evident from late tillering stage, leaf rust was well established in Mace and yield loss was as much as 30 per cent.

However, infection severity was significantly lower - and less than 10 per cent - with later disease onset at flag leaf emergence.

Other wheat varieties and the new leaf rust strain

Geoff says susceptible (S) varieties, such as Stiletto, will continue to exhibit high levels of infection and significant yield losses to the new wheat leaf rust strain.

In the 2014 DAFWA trials, yield losses in this variety were 70 per cent when disease pressure was high from the late tillering stage and infection severity greater than 50 per cent when disease onset was from flag leaf emergence.

Disease screening nursery trials carried out by DAFWA plant pathologist Dr Manisha Shankar confirmed that several other wheat varieties maintained good resistance to the new strain 76-1,3,5,7,9,10,12+Lr37.

Her results reflected previous research findings that Magenta, remained resistant (R) to this pathotype and Carnamah and Cobra had higher resistance than Mace.

Previous research has also indicated that Sapphire and Bullaring are R to the new leaf rust and King Rock, Fortune and Zippy have other leaf rust resistance genes that are expected to remain effective against the new strain.

Varieties with the greatest potential change in resistance status to the new wheat leaf rust strain carry the resistance genes Lr13 (such as Mace, Wyalkatchem, Corack, Stiletto and Emu Rock) and Lr17a (Fortune). Full wheat disease resistance ratings are outlined in the 2015 Wheat Variety Guide for Western Australia, available at: www.grdc.com.au/Research-and-Development/National-Variety-Trials/Crop-Variety-Guides

Barley leaf rust

A strain that can overcome leaf rust resistance gene Rph3 was also detected for the first time in WA in 2013.

More than half of the barley leaf rust samples from WA tested by the ACRCP in 2014 were virulent to Rph3.

This new strain will primarily affect varieties such as Bass and Compass which have resistance based primarily on Rph3. These varieties should now be considered susceptible to leaf rust.

The leaf rust responses of Grange, Henley and Oxford, which carry Rph3, have not changed markedly due to the presence of adult plant resistance genes, such as Rph20.

Professor Park suggests growers check updated resistance ratings in the Barley variety sowing guide for Western Australia 2015, available at: <http://www.grdc.com.au/Research-and-Development/National-Variety-Trials/Crop-Variety-Guides>

Monitoring and reporting in 2015

DAFWA researchers across the WA wheatbelt are closely monitoring volunteer cereals and emerging cereal crops for the presence of leaf rust – as well as other diseases, viruses and pests.

Geoff Thomas advises growers and advisers to monitor volunteers, particularly of S varieties such as Stiletto, and to be prepared if fungicide management of leaf rust is required this season.

Prophylactic fungicide management is not recommended in the absence of any reported rust.

Cereal plants showing rust symptoms should be sent for testing to the ACRCP headquarters at the University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute (PBI).

These can be mailed in paper envelopes - not plastic wrapping or plastic-lined packages - to the Australia Cereal Rust Survey Plant Breeding Institute, Private Bag 4011, Narellan, NSW, 2567.

Geoff says the potential impact of new cereal rust pathotypes in WA also reinforces the importance of biosecurity awareness among growers and advisers.

He says it is vital to avoid the chances of incursions through human transfer of inoculum on clothes and equipment from other States.

Breeding for rust resistance

The ACRCP is a major investment priority for GRDC as part of its efforts to monitor, assess and develop rust management strategies for Australian growers.

Since the early 1970s, ACRCP researchers have identified new sources of rust resistance and have assisted breeders to incorporate these into new cereal varieties.

This work has included extensive testing of cereal lines with new rust strains to ensure industry-wide preparedness to the emergence of new rust threats.

This ensures that plant breeders are provided with new sources of leaf rust resistance to breed into new Australian wheat varieties.

The Rust Bust campaign, an initiative of the ACRCP Consultative Committee, encourages Australian growers to phase-out varieties that are susceptible and very susceptible to rust and to more effectively manage the disease.

Rust Bust is active on twitter and will provide reports of any rust outbreaks during the 2015 season. To follow, go to: @the_rustbust

More information

Geoff Thomas, DAFWA, 08 9368 3262, geoff.j.thomas@agric.wa.gov.au

Hyola Tops Industry Blackleg Ratings

Hyola canola varieties have been rated the highest in the industry for blackleg resistance in a recent GRDC publication.

All Hyola varieties currently on the market achieved either the top rating of Resistant (R) or the second highest rating of Resistant-Moderately Resistant (R-MR) in the organisation's 2015 autumn blackleg management guide.

The annual fact sheet helps growers determine whether they are in a high-risk situation and what practices they can change to reduce or prevent yield loss from blackleg, a potentially devastating disease. Justin Kudnig, canola manager at the company which markets the product, Pacific Seeds, said along with yield and oil, blackleg resistance is a key trait to consider when selecting a cultivar.

"We believe, along with high yield and oil, another trait of equal importance for Australian canola growers is to have the highest levels of inbuilt blackleg resistance," he said.

Mr Kudnig said industry agronomists and consultants continued to use the GRDC blackleg management guide as it empirically assisted growers with making informed decisions on varietal selections.

Pacific Seeds conducts blackleg screening of its lines at its Toowoomba, Queensland facility and also in the field.

Mr Kudnig said it "continues to invest significantly in research" at its world-class blackleg screening glasshouse facility and in its intensive field screening program across Australia.

"We set out to build an industry leading intensive blackleg screening program that it employs for all its parent lines and new hybrids under development."

He said this resulted in Hyola hybrids again topping each herbicide tolerance group in Australia with the highest adult resistance ratings possible in the industry, including the new Roundup-Triazine (RT) dual herbicide tolerance category.

"This is a major credit to our diligent and focused research team."

According to Mr Kudnig, growers have another clear advantage with Hyola hybrids – the different combinations of blackleg groupings enable growers each year to effectively use Hyola hybrids for ongoing blackleg resistance management.

The GRDC fact sheet outlines four steps to follow for successful management of blackleg.

It summarises the process in five key points: monitor your crops in Spring to determine yield losses in the current crop; choose a cultivar with adequate blackleg resistance for your region; never sow your canola crop into last year's canola stubble; relying only on fungicides to control blackleg poses a high risk of fungicide resistance; and, if your monitoring has identified yield loss and you have grown the same cultivar for three years or more, choose a cultivar from a different resistance group.



Plant Sampling ... Don't miss the opportunity!



Put Plant Sampling in your calendar

Remember that NUlogic Soil Analysis is just one part of the puzzle and this season presents a good opportunity to follow up with NUlogic Plant Analysis. You may wish to pencil in the dates on your calendar to collect plant samples from key paddocks. As a guide, use 4 to 8 weeks after seeding (WAS) for canola and 6 to 10 WAS for cereals.

Plant testing is still under utilised. Soil samples are taken in far greater numbers than plant samples. Plant test results are a great way to plan next year's fertiliser program.

Plant analysis using CSBP's NUlogic service can assist with any in-crop fertiliser adjustments that may need to be made and can check that trace elements will not restrict production. Critical levels and analysis of results are based on over forty years of local trial data.

NUlogic Plant Analysis kits are available at all CSBP Landmark and independent sales agents. CSBP's Sampling Pro app for iPhones can also be used to geo-reference sampling sites.

Whole Tops or YEBs?

Every year there is the question about whether it's best to sample whole tops or youngest emerged blades (YEBs) for cereals. Inevitably copper (Cu) is linked to this question.

The short answer is it doesn't really matter. If you are using NUlogic, whole tops and YEBs are equally accurate for nutrients like Cu. Sampling one over the other should not be based on accuracy, rather on what you want to achieve from sampling and, as usually happens, on the practicalities of sampling.

One major difference in sampling whole tops is you get an accurate assessment of all nutrients whereas YEBs are not so good for mobile and variably mobile nutrients like N, P, K and S and we might as well use every opportunity to gauge how all the nutrients are travelling.

Also, just from a practical perspective, whole tops are much easier to sample - and to sample correctly. Western Australian farmers have the added advantage of NUlogic Plant Analysis being calibrated from local trials.

Local Field Trials

CSBP has once again invested in around sixty field trials across WA to provide growers with local information to improve the efficiency of their fertiliser applications with a view to increasing their bottom lines. Trial seeding is nearly complete with all sites sown into near ideal conditions.

The following is a list of CSBP trials in the Great Southern.

Farmer	Location	Topic	Crop / Pasture
Browne	Nyabing FIG	P rates on wheat after canola	Wheat
Sullivan	Katanning	N * K	Cereal
Taylor (sand)	Carlecuttup	VR Lime Super and MoP	Pasture
Taylor (gravel)			
Haynes	Frankland	P rates on wheat after canola	Wheat
Smith	South Stirlings	Claying * N * K	Canola
Davy	Wellstead	Post canola N * P	Canola/Cereal
Hassad	Jerramungup	K Placement	Cereal
Richardson	Gnowangarup	Lime * Super Phos and TE's	Wheat

CSBP is also working on a micronutrient project in conjunction with DAFWA and Murdoch University with the support of GRDC funding. There are three trial sites around the state, including a copper trial at 'Shelton', Gairdner.

If you have any queries or would like to know more about plant sampling this season or the trials, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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Don't forget to sign your Canola ISCC Self Declaration Form

The European Union (EU), one of Australia's major canola markets, has strict sustainability requirements for all biomass being used in the production of biofuels, including canola.

CBH Group is accredited under the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) scheme for Western Australia. This scheme is the most highly regarded by our European customers and has scope to grow as the market continues to mature.

It's a good time to remind growers who deliver canola and sell to CBH that they need to complete their ISCC Self Declaration form *each* season to participate in the scheme and receive the \$5 per tonne sustainability premium.

We encourage all growers to wish to participate in the 2015-16 season to sign the declaration now, so it does not hold them up when they are contracting grain with CBH this harvest.

To make the completion of the ISCC Self Declaration easier for growers we have developed an online form. To complete an ISCC form online, log onto LoadNet, click on the CBH Marketing tab and follow the prompts. The form can then be completed online and electronically submitted.

We would also like to remind growers that by completing an ISCC Self Declaration, they may be selected for an audit by a third party to verify the compliance with the on-farm ISCC requirements. In which case CBH will provide resources and guidance to ensure the audit is straightforward and successful.

Last season 2 per cent of CBH's growers were audited under ISCC, of which 100% passed, and we look continue the same level of support and success in 2015.

Finding value for growers is one of CBH's primary objectives by ensuring market access to the highest paying markets. Grower's involvement in the ISCC scheme ensures that CBH can export WA canola into the European market.

We would like to thank all ISCC growers for their support and look forward to a continued partnership with them to create and return value for their canola in 2015.

For more information we encourage you to speak to your local Business Relationship Manager. You can find the BRM contact details on our website www.cbh.com.au/selling-to-cbh/contact-your-local-brm, or speak to the team at the Grower Service Centre on 1800 199 083.

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DON'T GET LOCKED OUT OF LOADNET

At CBH, we're making changes to our online services to make them more useful and more secure. As part of these changes, you will need your individual GRID login to access LoadNet. You may have already completed your ID verification online with GRID and have your new login details. But if you haven't, it's really important that you do it soon so you can continue accessing essential online services from CBH. If you haven't received a GRID pack, just call us on **1800 199 083** and we'll be happy to send you one. To find out more visit www.grid.cbh.com.au

Grower Service Centre
1800 199 083
cbh.com.au



Local early warning system for blackleg spore showers

By Craig White, Technical Adviser, Bayer CropScience

www.theprosaroscale.com.au

Predicted blackleg spore maturation | Blackleg Management |
Prosaro SC fungicide information

The Prosaro Scale is your *local* early warning system for when blackleg spore showers are likely to occur. This allows you to minimize risk of yield loss due to blackleg by making effective, timely decisions, such as the tactical use of a foliar fungicide, before blackleg becomes a problem in your canola crop.

The basis of the Prosaro Scale builds on the well-established Blackleg Sporacle model, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA). Blackleg Sporacle model was developed through research undertaken by DAFWA with the Grains Research and Development Corporation. The Prosaro Scale uses daily temperature and rainfall inputs, sourced from Bureau Of Meteorology and Weatherzone in order to provide a seasonal estimate for your area on the arrival of the first blackleg spore showers.

As the predicted spore maturation develops, the pointer on the scale moves from low (yellow) through medium (orange) to high (red). Once the scale is showing red, a blackleg spore release is imminent or has commenced. Prior to this time the forward date for the potential spore release is also shown based on rain predictions of greater than 4 mm per week or per fortnight.

Blackleg Risk Assessment for Postcode 6328



High Risk as at 1 Jun 2015

Table 1. Local risk assessment and predicted spore release dates from The Prosaro Scale as of 1 June 2015

Poststcode: Location	Risk Assessment	Predicted Spore release*
6324: South Stirlings, Woogenellup, Mount Barker	Low	15 July
6323: Kendenup	Low	15 July
6321: Cranbrook	Low	15 July
6328: Green Range, Wellstead	High	1 June
6396: Frankland River	High	1 June

*with more than 4mm rain per week from now

It must be noted that the scale is a tool, and should not be solely relied upon in the decision making process for disease control. Growers should always seek advice from a qualified agronomist or advisor when deciding on disease control options for blackleg.

Works well on the PC and on mobile devices.

Simply type www.theprosaroscale.com.au into your internet browser and save as a bookmark!

Bayer CropScience is also working on a sclerotinia prediction tool, and this is being evaluated by some crop advisers during the 2015 season.

Introducing The Prosaro Scale.

A simple method of fungus disease management.



The Prosaro Scale

Prosaro® 420SC is the most effective foliar fungicide treatment against blackleg and sclerotinia.

Knowing when conditions are suited to disease outbreaks is crucial for your proactive disease control program. The Prosaro Scale is your early warning system for when blackleg spore showers are likely to occur. This will allow you to minimise the risk of yield loss due to blackleg by making effective decisions, such as the tactical use of a foliar fungicide, before blackleg becomes a major problem in your canola crop. The basis of the Prosaro Scale builds on the well-established Blackleg Sporacle model, which was obtained in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA). The Blackleg Sporacle model was developed through research undertaken by DAFWA with the Grains Research and Development Corporation.



PROSARO

For more information on blackleg disease management or alerts for your area, visit theprosaroscale.com.au or save The Prosaro Scale bookmark on your mobile device.

LOW RISK

Weather conditions may become conducive to a blackleg spore release. It's recommended to check the Prosaro Scale on a regular basis.

MEDIUM RISK

The blackleg spore release date is not far away. A preventative fungicide may be required, it's recommended to contact your local agronomist.

HIGH RISK

A blackleg spore release may have occurred or is imminent. It's recommended to contact your local agronomist immediately.



theprosaroscale.com.au

Bayer gratefully acknowledge DAFWA co-operation. The model predicts the maturity date of blackleg pseudothecia and hence ascospore release onto new plants by utilising accumulated daily rainfall and temperature data.

FEBRUARY 2014

Load Restraint Information Sheet

LOAD SAFETY IS ROAD SAFETY

The safe loading of vehicles is vitally important in preventing injury to people and damage to property.



Further Information

The [National Transport Commission](#) has produced a Load Restraint Guide that can be viewed on their website.

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/viewpage.aspx?documentid=00862>



Why is load restraint important?

Unsecured loads such as household goods, building materials and green waste pose a serious danger to other road users and the public.

It is an offence under WA transport laws if your load is not properly restrained and is at risk of falling from your vehicle.

Every year, debris falling from unsecured loads causes road closures and disruptions, incurs thousands of dollars in damages to vehicles and property, and can be a major contributor to serious crashes.

Effects of improperly restrained loads

- The collection of debris causes congestion, especially on our freeways;
- Objects from vehicles may fall on to other vehicles, pedestrians or cyclists;
- Other drivers swerve to avoid items that are falling or have fallen from vehicles, causing additional damage;
- Loads that have spilled onto the road may cause other vehicles to skid and lose control and
- Unrestrained loads can become deadly projectiles, crashing into driver and passenger cabins during emergency braking, causing serious injury and death.

Did you know?

- 1675 callouts to collect debris in 2013 were recorded by Main Roads WA – with many of these putting staff and motorists in dangerous situations.
- A heavy load is just as likely to fall off as a light load. The same 'g' forces are acting on both.
- Just because a load has been carried in a particular way for many years does not mean it is properly restrained.
- There is a greater chance of losing a load when braking at low speed than at high speed, as it is easier for the brakes to 'grab' at low speed.

Always remember:

- The security of your load, your life and the life of others relies on proper load restraint.
- Use a vehicle and suitable restraint equipment appropriate for the type of load you are carrying.
- Position the load correctly.
- Use good quality restraint equipment, maintained in good condition.
- Check your load restraint immediately before leaving and during the trip.
- You are driving under different, more difficult conditions when you are carrying certain types of loads.
- Failure to restrain a load correctly on a vehicle may result in legal action being taken against any persons involved, including a fine of up to \$400.
- Load restraint should meet the performance standards detailed in the [Load Restraint Guide](#).





In recent years, GrainGrowers has undertaken the development of an on-farm grain analyser known as the GrainVantage unit. This is a portable, lightweight and highly accurate NIR instrument for on-farm testing of moisture, protein and oil content over a wide variety of grains. Key benefits of the GrainVantage units are the competitive low price, accuracy and reliability. A number of units have been sold in WA in the past 2 seasons and the units have proven their accuracy and reliability.

To further support local groups GrainGrowers is pleased to announce a Community Promotion from the sale of GrainVantage units.

Full details of the offer are included on the flyer but in essence, for each unit sold to a member of a grower or production group, GrainGrowers will rebate \$500 to that group.

If you would like more information please call me directly on 0417 956 287.

Ray Morgan



Grain Vantage™

GrainGrowers and Perten Instruments Australia have worked together to develop the next generation NIR instrument for protein, moisture and oil content in whole grains and oilseeds.

The GrainVantage instrument provides grain producers with a **lightweight and highly portable** NIR designed for Australian conditions. Weighing 7kg the unit is capable of operating from 240v, 12v or internal battery providing maximum flexibility whether used from the header seat, chaser bin or at a silo.

The design matches Australian conditions with **rugged optics** and an automated dust shutter to ensure reliable, low maintenance operations.

GrainVantage units are delivered fully calibrated against National Measurement Institute (NMI) certified IM 9500 Analyser ensuring **accurate data**.

GrainVantage units are competitively **priced at \$9950 exl GST**, which includes a 12 month warranty. Product delivery and additional sample cells are not included in this price.



COMMUNITY PROMOTION

As an additional community benefit GrainGrowers is providing the opportunity for local grower and production groups to benefit from a rebate on each unit sold. On purchasing a GrainVantage unit growers may nominate their local grower or production group to benefit from a \$500 cash rebate paid direct to the nominated group.

To be eligible for the rebate purchasers must be referred to GrainGrowers by the nominated group. GrainGrowers will then contact the prospective purchaser and on completion of the purchase automatically make payment to the group. This offer is open to all grain producers regardless of membership with GrainGrowers.

For further details email enquiry@graingrowers.com.au or contact your local GrainGrowers Field Officer (details at www.graingrowers.com.au/about/ourteam).

SCF 2015 Regional Crop Update



Lancer Turner momentarily stumped by a question on how he got on top of herbicide resistance



Peter Newman discussing research in Herbicide Resistance Management

The Management Committee

The following are members of the Stirlings to Coast Farmers Management Committee. This group meet regularly and guide the events and research priorities for the group. They appreciate input from the wider membership and can be contacted on the numbers listed below :

- Scott Smith 9847 7043 or 0429 466 037 (Chairperson)
- Derek Curwen 9854 3012 or 0428 543 012 (Deputy Chairperson)
- Mark Adams 9854 1051 or 0428 910 853
- Ken Drummond 9854 1033 or 0427 541 033
- Shane Greenslade 9854 2018 or 0428 542 048 (Events East)
- John Hood 9847 7034 or 0427 960 950
- John Howard 9854 3004 or 0428 543 004
- Iain Mackie 9851 1350 or 0427 511 350 (Events West & Research)
- Andrew Slade 9852 4096 or 0433 779 426
- Tony Slattery 9847 1054 or 0417 050 174
- Jeff Stoney 9847 1011 or 0427 471 011
- Mal Thomson 9854 3038 or 0428 543 038
- Jeremy Lemon - Senior Development Officer DAFWA 9892 8413
- Brent Pritchard - Agronomist Farmanco 0488 428333

Ex Officio

- Terry Duke - Executive Officer 0429 965 480
- Heather Adams - Administrative Officer 0428 541 051 (Website)
- John Blake - R&D Coordinator 0438 761 950

Thank you also to our Tier 2 Sponsors

