

Diseases in Winter Crops on the Liverpool Plains

Wheat:

There has been a lot of Yellow Leaf Spot present in the bread wheat varieties such as Lang and Strzelecki. It is more prevalent in the short fallow paddocks where wheat has been planted back on wheat stubble. In saying this, the disease is still present in longer fallow situations where wheat is planted into sorghum stubble. There has been no Stripe Rust recorded as yet. Most susceptible varieties would have been treated with Jockey as a seed treatment prior to planting. The awareness of Stripe Rust is much higher as the last few seasons had extreme pressure. The infections of Stripe Rust will more than likely increase as we go into the warmer spring months.

Any Marombi winter wheat that was infected badly with leaf rust, has so far been controlled with Jockey. All wheat with low levels of resistance to Yellow Leaf Spot

and Stripe Rust should be monitored closely before the flag leaf is fully emerged. If the onset of disease continues throughout the lower leaves in the canopy a foliar fungicide may be warranted to aid control.

Barley:

In the past few weeks there has been a lot of Spot Form of Net Blotch in barley, that has been planted into wheat or barley stubble. Around 45% of the barley yield will come from the Flag Leaf -1 in barley so it is important to protect the lower leaves. Susceptible varieties such as Gairdner and Dash will need close monitoring. An application of Tilt (Propiconazole) at 500 ml/ha will provide control of this disease. Monitor all barley over the coming weeks leading into spring.

Fababeans:

Rust, Chocolate Spot and Ascochyta are the three main dis-

eases affecting Fababeans. Two applications of Dithane (Mancozeb), one at 4-6 weeks after planting and one at flowering will ensure good control of these three diseases. The main requirement is to apply prior to rain and have a fine droplet range to ensure good even coverage. The use of Twinjet Nozzles at 4 bar pressure in 100 lt water /ha will give you excellent coverage.

Chickpeas:

Ascochyta was the most damaging disease in the past but with newer varieties such as Flipper and Yorker available the management is more reactive rather than preventative. If growing older more susceptible varieties such as Howzat and Jimbour it will be essential to have a two to three spray programmed fungicide strategy in place to prevent disease. Dithane at 1 kg/ha prior to rain is the preferred control measure. If the disease is starting to spread and has not been controlled with this prod-

uct switch to Bravo (Chlorothalonil).

Continue to monitor crops closely. If finding Ascochyta in Flipper you will need to apply Bravo (Chlorothalonil) at .5 L/ha. Details of fungicide strategies for AWB varieties Flipper and Yorker are listed on the AWB website under the PulseVariety Management Package, website address <http://www.awb.com.au/growers/awbseeds/productprofile/varietymanagementguide/>.

Phytophthora Root Rot can be a problem in the higher rainfall areas so a variety such as Yorker would be preferred as it has the greatest tolerance.

Canola:

The area planted to Canola is not high this year. The main thing to do is select varieties that have good resistance to Black leg and make sure there is around 3 years break between Canola crops.

Avoid Common Yield Mapping Mistakes

Some of the most common mistakes that limit the benefits growers could receive from their investments in yield mapping technology are: -

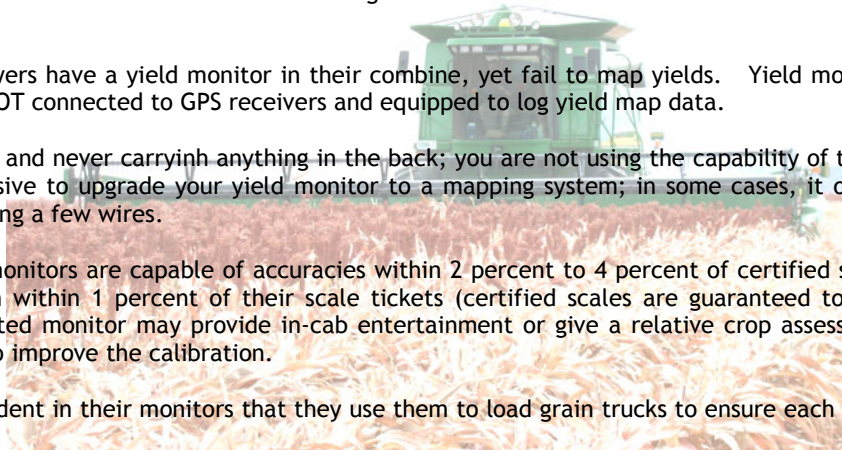
Not Mapping: Many growers have a yield monitor in their combine, yet fail to map yields. Yield monitors are common, but nearly half of those we see are NOT connected to GPS receivers and equipped to log yield map data.

This is like buying a utility and never carryinh anything in the back; you are not using the capability of the tool you purchased. It may be very easy and inexpensive to upgrade your yield monitor to a mapping system; in some cases, it only requires a GPS receiver, a memory card and connecting a few wires.

Not Calibrating: Yield monitors are capable of accuracies within 2 percent to 4 percent of certified scales, but many operators see even better results, often within 1 percent of their scale tickets (certified scales are guaranteed to be +/-0.05 percent of actual weight). A poorly calibrated monitor may provide in-cab entertainment or give a relative crop assessment in different parts of the field, but it's often easy to improve the calibration.

Some growers are so confident in their monitors that they use them to load grain trucks to ensure each load is within legal weight limits.

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Forage Brassica

Key Points: Provide high quality feed, Pasture management is essential, Stocking rate and access needs to be controlled and Fibre needs to be included in livestock diet

Forage crops are an important tool for graziers, providing stock with quality feed throughout the season. Brassica crops are a source of high quality and quantity feed offering excellent energy and protein.

Brassica can be sown in early autumn and will provide feed during winter. Early maturing varieties can be grazed in 6 to 8 weeks. Many cultivars have rapid regrowth after grazing and can be grazed up to 4 times.

Strip grazing is the best method of managing grazing. This gives the producer the ability to control stocking rates, which will influence feed quality and utilisation. It is important to give a large front face and a shallow depth of break to limit wastage from soiling. It is also recommended that a back wire be used to allow re-growth. Stocking rates must be high enough to keep on top of the crop. Low stocking rates may lead to feed quality decline or poorer utilisation of available feed.

It is important to remember that forage Brassica is high in digestibility and quite low in fibre. For this reason supplementary fibre needs to be included in livestock's diet. This may include dry pasture or hay. Brassica should only make up 33% of dairy cattle's diet and 70% of beef cattle's diets. It is safe to feed growing lambs 100%.

Although Brassica require more grazing management than traditionally sown oat crops, Brassica have an advantage in higher yields and gross margins. Data from PGG Seeds suggest that the gross margin from steers fed Brassica (70%) and hay (30%) would be about \$517/Ha compared with steers on grazing oats at \$242. This comes from the increase in stocking rate and grazing days achievable with forage Brassica.

For more information on forage Brassica or any forage issue please contact your local Pursehouse Rural Agronomist.

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Avoid common yield mapping mistakes

Many factors can influence yield monitor accuracy. Your Pursehouse Rural Agronomist has a weigh bin and the knowledge to help you improve yield monitor calibration.

Not doing anything with Yield Map Data: Each year we run into growers who have been yield mapping for several years, yet the past two or three years data is still ON THEIR MEMORY CARD. The crop season is not over until you: -

1. Create and print a hard copy yield map for each field, each year.
2. Create a backup copy or archive of your data to store in a safe place.
3. Share your maps and discuss them with others. Show them to your business partners and others involved in the operation—input suppliers, bankers, landlords, crop scouts, even old-timers in community coffee shops. You can learn a great deal by discussing yield map results with anyone who will listen.

Not tying yield maps to crop recordkeeping: Farm operations are becoming larger and more complex; we just cannot remember all the production details about each field. We need to create ways to keep our crop records and field observations with the yield maps for interpretation.

GPS records of planting and other field operations, along with new software tools, are emerging to make this easier. We encourage operators to devise a system to keep copies of their crop records, field operations and scouting reports with their yield data to add value to the yield history of each field.

Not using Maps to make Decisions: Yield mapping technology provides an annual report card on how things ended in each field. To get value from these investments, you must use the information to make better business decisions that reduce costs or increase yields or both. If not, the technology will not benefit your bottom line.

Quirindi Monthly Specials

* Lightning Fence Droppers, bundle of 25 only \$25.00

* Waratah Fence Droppers, bundle of 45 for \$80.00

* Rubber Mallets - \$2.99

* 32oz rubber mallets - \$3.49

(all prices inclusive of GST)

August Weather Summary

Location	Average Temp (°C)	High Temp (°C)	Low Temp (°C)	Number of Days < zero	Rain mm	Average Wind Speed Km/h	High Wind Speed Km/h	Dominant Wind Direction
Cattle Lane, Willow Tree	9.8	23.9	-4.9	17	2.4	8.9	57.9	SSE
"Murlow", Quirindi	8.9	23.8	-6.7	19	3.8	7.4	49.9	SSE