

Control of Ascochyta in Chickpeas

Key Points

The timing of fungicide application is critical. Sprays must be applied before rainfall.

Change fungicide application rate according to severity of disease.

Adopt an early spray prevention program, don't wait until you see evidence of the disease.

Use flat fan nozzles, operating at a minimum of 4 bar pressure and 80L/ha of water.

Early application of fungicides is essential for prevention and restriction of the early development of Ascochyta in chickpeas.

It is important to be aware of how susceptible your particular variety is to Ascochyta. Susceptibility will potentially alter spray regimes.

Table 1. Chickpea Variety Disease Resistant Ratings

Rating	Description	Ascochyta
1	Highly Resistant	
2		
3	Moderately Resistant	Flipper
4		
5	Intermediate	Yorker
6	Moderately Susceptible	Howzat
7		
8	High susceptible	Jimbour, Amethyst, Kyabra, Bumper, Gully, Sona, Kaniva
9		

Source NSW DPI

Northern NSW falls under a "medium risk situation". The most common spray program in this situation for susceptible varieties such as Jimbour and Howzat is:

- Spray 1 - Time the first spray 3-4 weeks after emergence.
- Spray 2 - The second spray should be then timed 2-3 weeks after the first spray.

The crop then needs to be closely monitored for any evidence of Ascochyta. Crops should be checked every 7-10 days especially before the onset of a rainfall event or heavy dew. If the disease appears to be spreading, additional fungicide applications will be needed.

It has been shown that in "medium risk situation" with the varieties Flipper and Yorker there is no cost benefit in applying a fungicide until Ascochyta is detected.

There are essentially two fungicide choices. The first is mancozeb and the second is chlorothalonil. Applied correctly both mancozeb and chlorothalonil are effective when the disease is low or at undetectable levels. If the disease continues to spread, chlorothalonil has been found to be more effective.

These fungicides work in a similar manner. They prevent new infections, but will not cure existing infections. They provide a protective coating on the plant. New plant growth after application is not protected. This is why it is essential to ensure good coverage.

There has been a significant chickpea planting in the NW this year. This means that it even more important than ever to monitor crops very closely. If you haven't got someone keeping a close eye on your crop it is advisable that you do so immediately.



Figure 1. Ascochyta lesions on the leaf

Investing for the Future

Pursehouse Rural (PHR) offers the services of a "State of the Art" Fertiliser Ground Spreader fitted with the latest technology in application.

PHR recently purchased a new 330hp Mercedes Benz 4x4 Truck with a "Transpread" hydraulically driven spreading unit. A choice is available of either low compaction flotation tyres designed for performance on black soil where compaction is an issue or super single tyres for hill and pasture spreading. This vehicle is designed to operate in a wide variety of conditions and with its GPS navigation and accuracy of on-board scales, has the advantage of recording precise paddock areas and the correct rate throughout the job. The use of advanced technology in this rig has improved the time and quality of the application especially when compared to older units or aerial spreading which, though fast and efficient, does not have the accuracy of placement that ground spreading can offer.



A Manitou telescopic handler is also available for hire with this new rig which gives the added advantage of a full service being available to swiftly and efficiently load and spread all types of fertiliser with minimal down-time.

Corie Slade who has been with Pursehouse Rural for four years as our Fertiliser Spreader Driver is vastly experienced in application technologies and is a local of the Quirindi area, giving him the advantage in knowing both the regions clients and their terrain. A happy smiling face and devoted family man, Corie ensures a swift and efficient job every time.

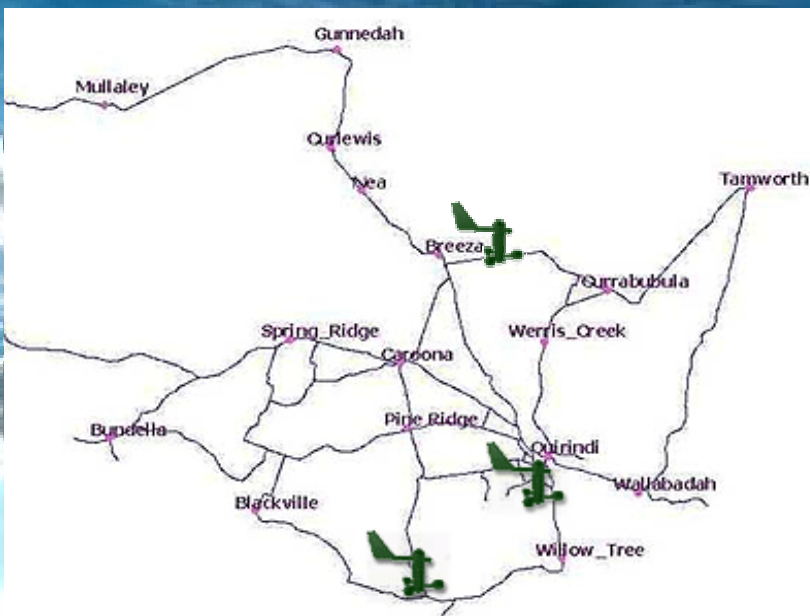
Weather Stations

Weather stations are being strategically placed throughout the North West Slopes to monitor weather conditions.

Currently located in the Quirindi, Breeza and Willow Tree areas, these weather stations will give accurate rainfall and temperature readings and will also be used in conjunction with precision agriculture to monitor crop performance.

PHR have been upgrading our weather stations allowing webpage access to local data.

To view any of the weather stations visit www.pursehouserural.com.au click on the services tab, select weather station, click on the green weather icons located on the map.



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