

Taking the Stripe Rust worry from farmers...

by enhancing their Management Options to limit Stripe Rust

Favourable conditions last season produced heavy foliar disease pressure in winter cereals. The Stripe Rust outbreak in wheat last season resulted in crops being sprayed once or twice for the disease. Control of this disease with fungicides requires timely application of foliar products. However, there are also seed treatments which provide good suppression of Stripe Rust.

Several options available to growers are:-

- Choose tolerant varieties which have high Stripe Rust ratings, eg 8+. Early season Gregory or Strzelecki, mid season Ellison, late season Ventura or Sunstate.
- When choosing varieties that are susceptible, eg 5 and below, planting seed should be treated with products such as Jockey®, or monitored closely to allow control of Stripe Rust before outbreaks occur.
- Spray at the first sign of Stripe Rust in susceptible varieties. Timely application of fungicides will provide the best protection of green leaf as product efficacy will not be lost by controlling the disease. Stripe Rust present at the time of application requires significant quantities of chemical to prevent the disease spreading, hence less chemical is left for protection. The aim of Stripe Rust management is to keep the top three leaves disease free until grain fill.
- Eliminate pathogen hosts by controlling volunteer cereals and grasses in fallow over the summer/autumn period.
- Early and correct identification can also aid in limiting the damage done by Stripe Rust.
- Grow durum or barley.

For further information regarding Stripe Rust identification and control measures, please contact your local Pursehouse Rural agronomist.

Don't Skimp on Nitrogen...

I can hear the moans already. Look at the Urea and Big N price – how can I possibly afford to put on enough nitrogen. It is true; the nitrogen price has been steadily rising over the past few years. This has left farmers with two dilemmas. The first being; what is the minimum amount of nitrogen I can apply this year? The second - maybe I should increase my chickpea and fababean area.

Without doing a soil test each cropping season, it is a bit of a guessing game as to how much nitrogen you have in your profile. If you haven't done a soil test, it is best to go back and see what your crops yielded in the previous season and also what your protein levels were. In general a 3.5t/ha crop of wheat will remove approximately 100 units of nitrogen from the soil profile. Barley removes a fraction less.

Last season we saw a slight reduction in overall protein in cereals across the board (this varied from region to region). If you lower your nitrogen inputs there will be a further reduction in protein levels this year.

If you are going to lower your nitrogen application at planting, you should be considering post application of nitrogen later in the season. To get a gauge of how your crop is going post plant, you can do a tissue test and then make a decision based on the results.

Continued page 2...

A rough price guide you can use to work out how much it costs per unit of nitrogen is: -

- Sulfate of Ammonia = \$1.00/kg/N
- Urea = \$1.07/kg/N
- Big N = \$1.05/kg/N

Although Sulfate of Ammonia is marginally cheaper per unit of nitrogen, you should be aware that this product should be incorporated into the soil by cultivation.

Label Changes For 2,4-D

Spray drift is a major issue in agriculture today. In recent seasons there has been an increased number of reports of off target damage caused by spray drift from a range of herbicides including glyphosate, starane, ally, and 2,4-D.

The national regulator of agricultural chemicals, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is currently reviewing the registrations and approvals of products containing 2,4-D. To address concerns associated with spray drift pending the completion of the review, the APVMA has made some amendments to the 2,4-D label, which took effect from 30 No-

vember 2005.

The new label requirements are: -

- This is a PHENOXY HERBICIDE that can cause severe damage to susceptible crops such as cotton, grapes, tomatoes, oilseed crops and ornamentals.
- DO NOT use unless wind speed is more than three kilometres per hour and less than 15 kilometres per hour as measured at the application site.
- DO NOT apply with smaller than coarse to very coarse spray droplets according to the ASAE S572 definition for standard nozzles.

What effect will these label changes have on sprayer setup?

To achieve the spray quality required according to the label changes, many farmers and contractors may be required to change the nozzles on their sprayers. The type of nozzles selected will depend on the type of plumbing, the pump type and capacity (capability of the sprayer to deliver high or low pressure), travel speeds, water volumes and target weeds.

Erik's Humour...

- A man comes home from work and is greeted by his wife. She tells him that there is some good news and some bad news about their car. The man says, "OK, so give me the good news". His wife replies, "the good news is, the airbag works"...



- What information is in the handbook of every Volvo car.....a bus timetable.
- If your children want to learn to drive, don't stand in their way...
- Why is it that when you are driving and looking for someone's address, you turn down the volume of the radio????
- What's the difference between a Volvo and a golf ball???? If you're lucky you can drive a golf ball more than 200 metres...

Quirindi Monthly Specials

Gripple Tensulators
pack of 10 \$38.00 plus GST

Gallagher Tie Wire - various sizes

Stayblock Concrete Fence Stay Ends
\$15.00 plus GST

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products, services or advice,**

**Please contact our
Muswellbrook branch on**

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