



PURSEHOUSE RURAL

agribusiness services



Kickin Clods

DURUM
CEREALS
WHEATS

There is much more interest in durum wheat this season as a result of high market prices for ADR1 grade durum. This price spike was associated with little ADR1 produced last season as a result of low protein levels and a wet harvest on the Liverpool Plains, the major durum growing region in Australia. There has always been a very small area of durum grown on the Downs but it has never been a serious winter alternative to bread wheats, barley and chickpeas.

Why? The general experience of durum has been a yield disadvantage to bread wheats in dry years, sometimes associated with durum's lack of tolerance to crown rot and its tendency to run to head quickly in a warm dry spring. Also, achieving quality standards required for ADR1 has historically not been easy and premiums over bread wheats fluctuate significantly. The major focus on summer crop and the smaller winter crop in this area has not helped its cause either.

Because it is susceptible to crown rot planting durum into winter cereals from last year is not recommended. Treating it as "first" wheat, that is having it following chickpeas, sorghum etc, is its best fit. Obviously planting it into fields with low sub soil moisture will exacerbate crown rot if the spring is dry, so have a reasonable moisture profile where it is to be planted. With protein for ADR1 grade at a minimum of 13% adequate nitrogen needs to be under the crop.

For dryland growers the variety Jandaroi appears our best current option. Jandaroi is a quick variety that maintains quality better than other varieties. For irrigation Bellaroi is a better fit with good standability and a higher yield potential, however procuring seed is more difficult than with Jandaroi at the moment.

Agronomically durum is a larger seed and needs to be planted at a slightly higher rate than bread wheat. Durum does not access soil zinc as well as bread type wheats so tissue testing during the season would be worthwhile. With an increase in durum acres this season it will be a good barometer for how it performs over a range of areas on the Downs.

For more information on Durum varieties to suit your farm, please contact any of the Pursehouse Rural agronomy team.

This months specials

Dry Season + 10% Urea 40kg
\$51.00 inc
Drive Advanced Washing Powder 10kg \$40.00 inc
Omo High Performance 10kg
\$40.00 inc
Cydectin Pour on 5L
\$490 inc

Limited Stock Available,
short dated stock (small text)

Seed Returns

Please be aware that any seed returned once purchased will not be credited until such time as the seed has been resold.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

The Value of Independent Crop Trial Work to Primary Producers

With an ever changing agricultural environment providing constant challenges and technical advancements to the grower of today, time and personnel restrictions can become an everyday occurrence when making farm management decisions. Agronomic farm inputs such as crop variety selections, crop nutrition inputs and weed and pest control options may be at risk of being selected based predominately on past experience and performance in a selected region. While this concept has an element of factual results attached to it, the danger may be that some of these inputs have been improved upon with ongoing research across a broad range of farm inputs. Pursehouse Rural have had a long history of providing independent and unbiased agricultural trial data to growers within their geographic distribution. Cropping trials are able to occur with the co-operation of local growers to assess varieties and farm inputs for characteristics that will have economic benefit to farmers. The real value of conducting these independent trials is by allowing us to:

- : provide sound information on the performance and characteristics of grain crop varieties so that growers can make informed selections from available varieties.
- : Include in the long term, specific varieties to assess performance across a wide range of growing conditions.
- : Use established protocols for evaluating yield, quality, disease and other agronomic factors associated with cropping inputs.
- : make available variety information in a form that enables growers to make valid comparisons between available varieties.
- : provide grower access to relevant trial sites throughout the growing season for real time visual assessment of varieties under paddock conditions.

Pursehouse Rural in QLD is constantly seeking growers interested in co-operating in independent trial work. Please feel free to talk to your local PHR representative if interested in fine tuning your farm management options by participating in these trials.

DEEP SOWING WHEAT AND CHICKPEA

Deep sowing of wheat and chickpeas has been used by western downs and Maranoa grain producers for the past two decades. Deep sowing involves the placement of planting seed into the moisture profile from six inches to one foot with a zero till spear point. This is followed by an in-furrow narrow gauge press wheel to firm the trench. By sowing deep, optimum seed to moisture contact can be achieved, resulting in good germination and a successful emergence of coleoptile into the preferred planting window for the maturity of the crop variety selected.

A primary tillage tyne and frame is generally required as a hight tyne breakout is required. Implements such as Flexi-coil, John Shearer, Garson, John Deere, Gyrat, Banana, Orion and various blade plough frames have been used successfully. Tyne boxes, adaptors, spear points and press-wheel technology vary to the individual preference.

The types of press wheel used also varies from tyne mounted flexi-coil units to in-frame side and rear mounted gyral's, garnelle and janke units in usually conical configuration. Pneumatic units also appear occasionally.

Single disc openers have not been as successful in the deep sowing of wheat and chickpeas. Discs generally don't achieve seed placement and the depths required. Row crop configured double disc opener planters, equipped with conservation coulter trash discs have been successful with the deep sowing of chickpeas.

Chickpeas have successfully been sown to depths of one foot. Harrowing or meshing off is a post plant practice to remove clods and to aid in good pre-emergent weed control. It also assists in crop harvest later on. Selected varieties should have a high ground clearance of lowest pod to ground. Pulse Australia indicates that one inch deep is a day longer to emergence.

Wheat has been deep sown to eight inches and successfully emerged. Wheat varieties should be selected with good coleoptile length and strength, large seed size, good carbohydrate levels, excellent germination and seedling vigour. Varieties to deep sow include Sunbri, Gregory, Strezlecki, Cunningham, Baxter and Land to name a few.

Starter Fertilisers are required in both deep sowing wheat and chickpeas when the seed is placed below the nutrient line. Phosphorus, zinc and other nutrients are required for the germinating seed and emerging seedling. Seed treatments are also essential, especially in cold planting conditions when the seed can take 10 to 14 days to emerge.

From the heavy clays of the Darling Downs to the wide variety of soils on the Maranoa, precise sowing setup in all soil types is an important consideration for deep sowing. The Maranoa can have clay loams, sandy clay loams, puggy Yampunya soils and heavy clays all in the one paddock whereas the central downs are far more even across the profile. Growers need to learn their soils assets and liabilities.

Optimum emergence is achievable with the following considerations. Correct planter setup, equipment calibration, operator skill, variety selection and moisture should see ideal conditions for successful deep sowing. Pursehouse Rural can assist in many of these questions, so for more information please contact your nearest branch or agronomist.

New knowledge gained at Information Morning

Pursehouse Rural held an information morning on the 18th May 2009 at Lavarta Bazadais Stud outside Pittsworth. The morning kicked off at around 8.30am with Natalie Temple, an experienced nutritionist from Better Blend Stockfeeds, talking about Beef Stud Cattle. Natalie explained the products which would be best suited for use at weaning, growing and finishing stages to produce exceptional stud cattle. Natalie also informed farmers of how Better Blend Stockfeed make their expandate products, how they can design custom products to suit customer needs and about their available delivery services.

Despite the inconvenience of a power failure, Kevin Melmeth from Dow AgroScience interacted with farmers to work out which woody weeds were a problem in this area. African Boxthorn, Black Wattle, Prickly Pear and Tree Pear were a few of the weeds with which the farmers present were having trouble. Kevin then discussed which chemicals would be ideal to use to achieve the best result. He also mentioned which application method worked the best on each weed.

Following this discussion we went for a walk to see what woody weeds we could find. African Boxthorn was the first we came across. Kevin then demonstrated which method and which chemical would be best for the size of the weed in front of us. Kevin then handed over to Ray Cook from Fort Dodge.

Ray introduced the new Fort Dodge product, Cydectin LA Injection for cattle, which is injected into the ear. He explained the best time to drench cattle to get the most effective use from the drench. In the cattle yards Ray demonstrated how Cydectin LA is injected. Physically injecting a few head with this product gave farmers a better idea of how it is done, as many farmers were unsure and concerned about the concept of having to inject this product into the ear.

The morning concluded with a morning tea, with donations received going to Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Nick Erskine was the lucky winner of the 40L Esky in our Lucky Draw Prize. Thanks to Natalie, Kevin & Ray for giving us their valuable time and expertise. Also, a big thank you to Janet & Mervyn Newlands, for allowing us to conduct this information morning on their property.

Pursehouse Rural will be holding more of these informative and hands on information days. Please check your Kickin' Clods for further details of dates and venues, and if there is any specific topic or issue you would like information about please do not hesitate to let one of us know and we will Endeavour to provide an information day on that topic.



Photos from left: Kevin Melmeth (Dow Agrosiences), Andrew Neale, Allan Wickham and Tanya Warrener (Pursehouse Rural Pittsworth) Fort Dodge representative Ray Cook injecting cattle with Cydectin LA Janet Newlands and Pursehouse Rural Clifton Branch manager Leon Gillespie, drawing the lucky door prize