

Mullaley Field Day 15 October 2009

The Pursehouse Rural (PHR) Crop tour was recently held to highlight current trials being undertaken in the Mullaley district. The day began with breakfast and was finished off with a barbecue lunch back at the PHR Mullaley branch. Around 40 people attended, including representatives from the various seed and chemical companies involved in the trials, plus PHR local staff. DPI plant pathologist, Kevin Moore was also present talking about the attributes of the new Chickpea variety HatTrick from AWB seeds.

1) Barley trial – Greg Morris “Blair Athol”

- Grout - AWB Quick feed variety
- Hindmarsh - AWB Quick Potential malt variety, good straw strength
- Shepherd – AWB potential malt variety
- Commander – ABB Seeds variety
- Buloke – AWB potential malt, Southern variety
- Oxford – PlanTech potential malt variety
- Fitzroy – AWB malting variety
- Gairdner – PlanTech malt variety



Left:
“Blair Athol”
Barley Trial

2) Caparoi Durum- Don Parish “Boooloola”

- Caparoi Durum is a new Durum from AWB seeds, due for release 2010
- Trial compared Caparoi to EGA Bellaroi in commercial situation
- Last variety bred by Ray Hare prior to retiring
- mid season maturing semi-dwarf durum
- High level of resistance to the diseases; stem rust, flag smut and yellow leaf spot, moderate (adequate) level of resistance to leaf rust, stripe rust, stinking bunt, root lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus thornei*), common root rot and the physiological defect; black point.
- Grain yield was generally greater than the check cultivars EGA Bellaroi, Kamilaroi, Yallaroi and Wollaroi across all regions, depending on seasonal conditions. Yield was equivalent to the recently released Jandaroi in all comparative experiments
- Plants mature approximately 154 days after sowing at Tamworth, depending on seasonal conditions.
- Straw strength is strong and similar to current cultivars
- Spikes of Caparoi are fully awned, buff coloured, but less dense and tapering when compared to Bellaroi (medium density and parallel).
- The caryopsis is large, bright amber and hard, typical of durum wheat.
- The sowing window in the prime target area is mid-May to late-June, although crops sown later than the middle of June can perform satisfactorily.
- Excellent lodging and shedding resistance
- Adapted to neutral and alkaline soils, but not saline or acid soils

3) Wheat Trial – Andrew Elliott & Steve Benham “Kooiyong”

15 Wheat Varieties :

- Jandaroi (AWB Seeds)
- Caparoi (AWB Seeds)
- Hyperno (AGT Seeds)
- Bellaroi (Plant Tech)
- Livingston (AGT Seeds)
- Ventura (AGT Seeds)
- Crusader (Pacific Seeds)
- Lang (AWB Seeds)
- Sentinel (AWB Seeds)
- HRZ Preston (AWB Seeds)
- HRZ02.2.15 (AWB Seeds)
- EGA Gregory (Pac Seeds)
- Sunlin (AGT Seeds)
- Sunzell (AGT Seeds)
- EGA Eaglehawk (Plant Tech)

4) Hat Trick Chickpeas – Jeremy Jones “Carnarvon”



Left: Robert Gill AWB Seeds,
Jeremy Jones & Jeremy
Brown Agrigrain

- Kevin Moore (Plant Pathologist NSW DPI) spoke on the disease benefits of HatTrick chickpeas over current available varieties
- First variety with Ascochyta and Phytophthora root rot resistance
- Excellent grain yield
- Ascochyta blight resistance
- Phytophthora root rot resistance
- Desirable plant height with medium to early maturity
- Excellent dhal milling yield

5) Doza Fababeans - Jeremy Jones “Carnarvon”



Left: Chris Farlow ABB seeds in
crop of Doza Fababeans

- Newest variety available
- Doza is earlier flowering than Cairo, Fiord and Barkool
- Yield is up to 12% higher than Cairo
- Medium & consistent sized seed heavier in weight than Fiord and Barkool
- Rust resistance is superior to all other current varieties
- Better adapted to warmer spring temperatures compared to Cairo
- Flowers 10 to 14 days earlier at Narrabri
- Can contribute organic Nitrogen

For more information contact your local Pursehouse Rural agronomist.

Tropical Pastures in Northern New South Wales

Tropical grasses in our region have become very popular for filling the feed shortage gap between forage crops and temperate pastures. There are a number of exotic tropical species that may be used for forage, soil conservation and soil improvement. There are variations in growth habit, soil preferences, drought and waterlogging tolerance.

Tropical species are most productive during the warmer months. In New South Wales, their profitable use is limited by low effective rainfall in summer, low temperatures, and frost. Tropical pastures are therefore confined to the coastal districts and the northern and central inland areas of the lower slopes and plains.

When choosing a tropical pasture for this year there are several agronomic factors that should be considered to ensure good establishment.

- Start with a weed free paddock - especially clean of summer grass weeds such as liverseed and barnyard grass. These grasses can out-compete the establishing pasture.

- Species selection - There are a range of tropical grass species that are suited to different soil types.

- Sowing time- Soil temperatures should be above 16 degrees at 9am and stable or climbing, ideal sowing time is mid October through November.

- Seed placement at sowing- Will vary on different soil types

- Starter fertiliser- Application of nitrogen and phosphorous with the seed will aid in emergence and seedling vigour.

Grazing management- Plants must have well developed secondary roots prior to first graze.

Tropical grasses are an investment in your grazing system and therefore every effort should be made to ensure successful establishment and continued life of the pasture. Please consult your agronomist to tailor a tropical grass pasture program for your particular farm.



Wet Coona Cup 2009

No one complains about a wet Coona Cup. On the 26th of October the annual Coonabarabran cup was held, supported by Pursehouse Rural. Pursehouse Rural Coonabarabran sponsored the maiden race and supplied the Coonabarabran Lions club with the use of their marquee, barbeque and cool room. The marquee was greatly appreciated as the district received 15mm of rain that eventually caused the races to be abandoned. With Lee Kernaghan entertaining the crowd there was no reason to leave after the races were abandoned and most people were happy to see some needed rain. Pursehouse Rural has been an ongoing supporter of the Coonabarabran races, which is an important event for the community.

