whats up...

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Pursehouse Rural Newsletter

Management Strategies of Ascochyta Blight for the coming Season

Management strategies for ascochyta vary greatly from season to season. This is due to the highly variable weather patterns that generally occur. There are a number of key management practices that can be used as a tool to minimise the effect of ascochyta.

- The use of clean and treated seed
- Variety selection
- Timing of fungicide application and ensuring that spraying equipment is set up appropriately
- Regular checking by an agronomist

NW NSW is referred to as a "Moderate or High Ascochyta blight risk". However an assessment should be done on a paddock-by-paddock basis rather than on a regional basis. In high ascochyta blight risk situations disease can develop rapidly, especially where chickpeas are being grown close to previous chickpea stubble paddocks. When susceptible varieties such as Jimbour, Howzat's and Kyabra are being grown, regular fungicide applications are necessary. Application of fungicides should commence prior to any detection of disease (preferably 3 weeks after emergence) through to maturity. Mancozeb should be applied at 1kg/ha for the first two applications. If the disease is detected and seen to be spreading when using mancozeb, you then will need to switch to a chlorothalonil fungicide program.

When planting ascochyta resistant varieties such as Flipper, there is no cost benefit of applying any fungicide until the disease is detected. Regular monitoring is still essential and if disease is spotted after any rainfall event mancozeb should be applied. This should be then followed by a chlorothalonil application. You then need to monitor to ensure the disease is contained. More chlorothalonil applications may be required.

When planting intermediate resistant varieties such as Yorker, an application of either mancozeb or chlorothalonil should be applied three weeks after emergence. The crop should then be monitored and if ascochyta is found after a rainfall event, a regular fungicide program should commence.

Both mancozeb and chlorothalonil are protectant fungicides. This means that after application, any new growth will be unprotected. Timing of applications is therefore crucial. Fungicides rely on small droplets. Flat fan nozzles that deliver an equivalent of 80lt/ha should be selected. You should use a minimum of 80lt of water/ha (100lt is preferable). When using high pH water ensure a buffer is added. For more information on ascochyta management strategies, consult your Pursehouse Rural agronomist and view the "Chickpea Disease Management Strategy –

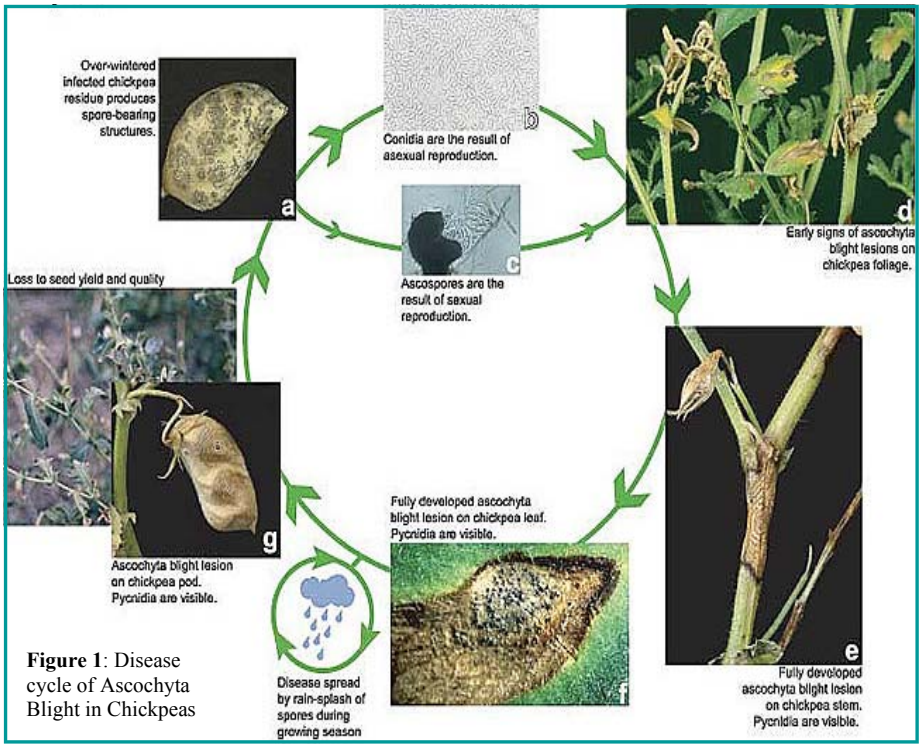
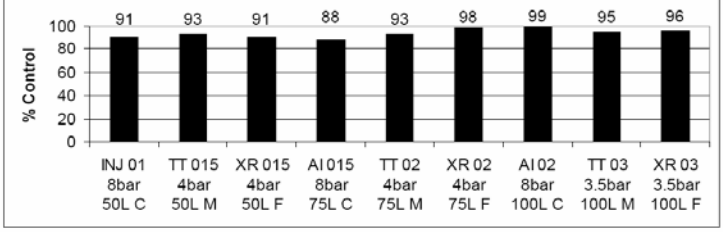


Figure 1: Disease cycle of Ascochyta Blight in Chickpeas

Trial applications of Sprayseed & Gramoxone using coarse droplets

Recent trials conducted by Syngenta have shown that the efficacy of Spray seed on 2 leaf annual ryegrass was not compromised when applied with medium or coarse spray quality. Water rates were varied from 50-100L per ha, with the higher rate showing slightly better results. However, Syngenta are stipulating that water rates of 80 L/ha and above are used when applying Sprayseed or Gramoxone with medium or coarse droplets.

Figure 1: Spray Seed efficacy on Annual Ryegrass 28 DAA, WA, 2006



Codes Used
Spray Quality: Fine (F), Medium (M), & Coarse (C).
Nozzle Type: HARDI INJET (INJ), Turbo TeeJet (TT), TeeJet XR (XR) & TeeJet AI (AI)
Nozzle Size: 01, 015, 02, 03
Spray Volume: 50L/ha (50L), 75L/ha (75L), 100L/ha (100L)

The rates of Sprayseed chosen in the trials were targeted to give 80 - 90 % control so that differences between treatments became more evident. The treatments consisted of an untreated and three nozzle types were chosen representing three spray qualities. 1. TeeJet extended range XR (fine), 2. Turbo TeeJet TT (medium), 3. TeeJet Air Induction AI (coarse). All nozzles were trialed at 50, 75 and 100L/ha respectively. The HARDI INJET nozzle was chosen for the 50L/ha rate only instead of the TeeJet AI as it was an 01 size more suited to the speed & volume & pressure combination chosen.

(Figure 1) shows the % control of annual ryegrass from using Spray Seed applied via a range of nozzles and water volumes from the field trial in WA. Statistics were conducted on the results from this trial including ANOVA and factorial analysis, but no significant differences were found between treatments or between factors of spray quality or water volume. However in this trial there was a trend towards improved control where water rates were increased. For example 50L/ha (avg. 92% control), 75L/ha (avg. 93% control) and 100L/ha (avg. 97% control). The efficacy of the air induction nozzle producing a coarse spray quality (avg. 93% control) in this trial was equivalent to the TT nozzle a medium spray quality (avg. 94% control) and the standard XR nozzle a fine spray quality (avg. 95% control).

Remember, when applying Sprayseed or Gramoxone, they are best applied under low light conditions. Spray these products later in the afternoon. For further information contact your local Pursehouse Rural agronomist.

Sheep Drench Resistance

There is a growing concern amongst sheep producers with the lack of efficacy in the use of some drenches. In most sheep districts of Australia, knowing the drench resistance status of your property is essential in the ongoing management of worms. It is therefore advisable to include a drench rotation program into your worm management strategy.
Important factors to remember are:

- Do not drench with the same drench all the time.
- Drench to the heaviest weight (don't under dose)
- Use a drench that will suit the time of year and worm burden
- Only drench when required

Another important tool to include in the ongoing management of worms is to have worm egg counts done but more importantly, know your drench resistance status. Theoretically, drench resistance occurs once a population of a species of worm can survive a dose of a drench that would have previously killed it. Worms killed by a drench are said to be susceptible to the treatment.
While a resistance test does cost around $120.00, you will find out which drench is most suitable for your sheep. It is a small price to pay when you consider the combined cost of drenching with an ineffective drench, the stress on your flock and the loss of production. When buying new stock it is important to obtain a drench history where possible to establish if there may be resistance to a drench group that you are not aware of.
Your local PHR branch will be able to help you with egg counts and drench resistance kits. Simply follow the directions inside the box and the results should be back in about two weeks depending on the test required.

Quirindi Lions Club Auction

to support the

'Eloura' Retirement Homes Building Project

Where: Quirindi Racecourse Showground
When: Saturday, April 12, 10am

Entries are invited for machinery, motor vehicles, sundries and furniture

For further information phone
Bob McInnes (67462083) Allan Grant (67462250)
Bob Penick (67474602)

March Weather Summary

visit http://www.pursehouserural.com.au/services/weather_station.html

Location	Average Temp (°C)	High Temp (°C)	Low Temp (°C)	Number of Days < 0°C	Rain mm	Average Wind Speed Km/h	High Wind Speed Km/h	Dominant Wind Direction
Cattle Lane, Willow Tree	Due to technical problems data for this weather station has not been recorded this month							
"Murlow", Quirindi	18.7	33.2	0.4	0	6	5.9	46.7	SSE
Mullaley	20.6	34.2	4.0	0	17.6	10.8	78.9	S
"Dow Site", Breeza	20.5	34.2	2.6	0	4.0	7.0	43.5	SSE