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Recommended Citation

(1998), *Legume Logic Number 90*. The Grain Pool of W.A., Perth. Book.

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LEGUME L O G I C

Editor: Peter Nelson

Number 90

ISSN 1035-3763

Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. WBG2760

A wider perspective

Well we promised you a new format for 1998 and here it is.

Late last year we canvassed our readers whether Lupin Logic was a valuable publication resource. We received 1365 replies to our survey on the future of Lupin Logic, which is 28% of our readership.

You indicated that you would prefer to have all articles on pulses incorporated into one legume newsletter.

To this end we discussed with Agriculture Western Australia the possibility of combining Lupin Logic with the excellent newsletter "On the Pulse". These discussions resulted in both sides realising that this was not possible and that has prompted the decision to rename Lupin Logic, using poetic licence, Legume Logic (only grain legumes will be covered) and retain the publication under the Grain Pool banner.

It is not intended that the Grain Pool will duplicate or compete with "On the Pulse" and therefore we will attempt to steer clear of presenting detailed agronomic information on pulses other than lupins. We will however be focusing on pulses in farming systems in WA and also be dedicated to presenting market information.

Legume Logic will be produced on a monthly basis. It will be available free of charge to all those on the Grain Pool mailing list.

Seed or feed in the silo?

Good quality seed is the foundation stone of all successful pulse crops. Disease, viral infections or poor seed viability are invisible characters of the seed and the only way to ascertain whether you have seed or feed is to test. The following tests are available:

Tests available	Lupins	Chickpeas	Peas	Faba beans	Lentils
Germination %	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CMV*	✓				
Seed size	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BGM**		✓			✓
Chocolate spot				✓	
Anthraxnose	✓				
Ascochyta blight				✓	✓

* cucumber mosaic virus

** botrytis grey mould

Have you got seed or feed in the silo? It's cheap insurance to test. We already know from tests carried out that CMV is widespread in lupin seed this year.

Pulse receivals (CBH 30/1/98)

Commodity	Geraldton	Kwinana	Albany	Esperance	Total
Lupins	535,186	345,0815	65,239	48,799	995,039
Desi Ch.Peas	12,704	6,850	0	0	19,554
Field Peas	0	12,342	0	4,675	17,017
Faba beans	3,038	7,362	681	1,502	12,583
Totals	550,928	372,369	65,920	54,976	1,044,193

Order inoculants now

Peat inoculants are living cultures of bacteria. They are manufactured each year according to demand. To produce a peat culture takes about 6 weeks, therefore it is important that you place your order with your supplier as soon as possible.

Remember that each packet of peat culture will have an expiry date after which the culture should not be used. Each legume type requires a specific bacteria. Inoculants are grouped according to the legume

species which have the same bacteria (rhizobium) requirements:

- Group E Peas and lentils
- Group G Lupins
- Faba bean All faba bean cultivars
- Chickpea All chickpea cultivars

Pulse market outlook

The long term future for West Australian pulses continues to look bright as demand increases are expected to outweigh increases in supply. Major pulse consumers are typically the major pulse producers and as such, prices can vary significantly from year to year depending on production in those countries.

Important markets to watch for chickpea, field pea and faba bean price increases are the Indian sub continent, China, Turkey, the Middle East and our biggest competitor Canada.

Dramatic changes in Australian production and the value of the Australian dollar also have a major influence on the price received by the grower.

Albus proposals

A letter has gone out from Agriculture Western Australia to those growers holding Albus lupin seed (Kiev) stating that the lupin industry has endorsed a return to commercial production of Albus lupin in 1999 and inviting them to plant Kiev lupins for bulk up in 1998.



Above: Anthracnose infection on albus lupin stem.

The ban on commercial production of other albus lupin crops is still in force for 1998.

We have learned a lot since the initial panic of discovering that we had the exotic disease anthracnose in commercial lupin crops in September 1996.

We now know that if we source clean seed, use seed treatments and minimise WA blue lupin stands we can contain this disease.

Agriculture Western Australia will ensure that the 1998 bulk up of Kiev lupins follow these guidelines but what about 1999 and beyond? Will the industry be able to self regulate itself, using recommended production practices, so that it does not threaten the angustifolius industry?

Kiev lupins are the most susceptible cultivar of lupins to the disease anthracnose currently available to Western Australia growers. In 1996 the area planted reached about 25,000ha. The high priced human consumption market is no more than 20,000 tonnes per year.

We have the chance now, having had a full year with no Kiev lupins grown, to ensure that future production of this variety will not increase costs of production or in any way jeopardise our valuable angustifolius industry.

The Grain Pool poses the rhetorical question: Will albus growers accept this opportunity or will we have a repetition of the 1996 anthracnose outbreak?

Grain Pool outlook meetings

Date	Time	Town	Venue
Monday Feb. 9	5pm	Yuna	District Hall
Tuesday Feb. 10	7am	Mingenew	Rec Centre
Tuesday Feb. 10	5pm	Coorow	Sports Centre
Wednesday Feb. 11	7am	Moora	Rec Centre
Wednesday Feb. 11	5pm	Koorda	Sports Centre
Thursday Feb. 12	7am	Burracoppin	Sports Centre
Monday Feb. 16	5pm	Quairading	Sports Centre
Tuesday Feb. 17	7am	Narrogin	Towns Football Club
Monday Mar. 9	5pm	Boyup Brook	Golf club
Tuesday Mar. 10	10am	Ongerup	Sporting complex
Tuesday Mar. 10	5pm	Lake King	Sporting complex
Thursday Mar. 12	7am	Condingup	Community centre
Thursday Mar. 12	5pm	Wellstead	Wellstead Hall

Anthracnose seed test

Biowest Australia has developed a test to detect the fungus anthracnose in lupin seed. Whilst the test, under the guidance of Agriculture Western Australia, is undergoing validation this year, growers who suspect they may have infected seed are urged to contact Mark Holland from Agriculture WA or David Messina from S.G.B. for further information.

Lupinus logicus vae

The first issue of Lupin Logic was published in July 1990 and apart from one month has been published monthly until now.

To produce a monthly newsletter involves many people, too numerous to mention here and on your behalf I express my sincere thanks to them for their efforts. I would however like to single out Malcolm Howes from Agriculture Western Australia who has been involved with Lupin Logic from its inception and was a driving force in the production team.

Finally to all our readers thanks for your support, encouragement and participation which we hope will continue for our new concept, Legume Logic.

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