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## Legume Logic Number 94

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### Recommended Citation

(1998), *Legume Logic Number 94*. The Grain Pool of W.A., Perth. Book.

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# LEGUME LOGIC

Editor: Peter Nelson  
Print Post Approved 602669/00324

Number 94

ISSN 1440-7930

## Sustainability

I've received some interesting comments and letters about the article on sustainability in last month's Legume Logic.

Here is part of one letter I would like to share with you sent in from Bob Hall, agricultural consultant, as it may help to crystallise your ideas on sustainability.

Bob writes "I couldn't get satisfactory answers to what people meant by sustainability so I had to come up with my own definition which is as follows:

Firstly a statement and then a definition!

Statement: to live is to degrade.

Definition: assuming that the statement is correct the definition of sustainability is that sustainability is essentially a compromise between commercial reality and the current community attitude.

I find that this allows room for manoeuvre and hopefully we all move a little bit towards things more sustainable or less outrageous as our attitude changes.

It satisfies me as to what I can deal with in terms of sustainability and hope you might find this useful".

## Lupin price outlook

Lupin prices are strongly related to international protein markets which are dominated by soybean meal demand and supply.

The US and South America are major producers of soybeans and soybean products. During the past two seasons, South America has significantly expanded soybean sowings in response to higher protein prices and lower corn values.

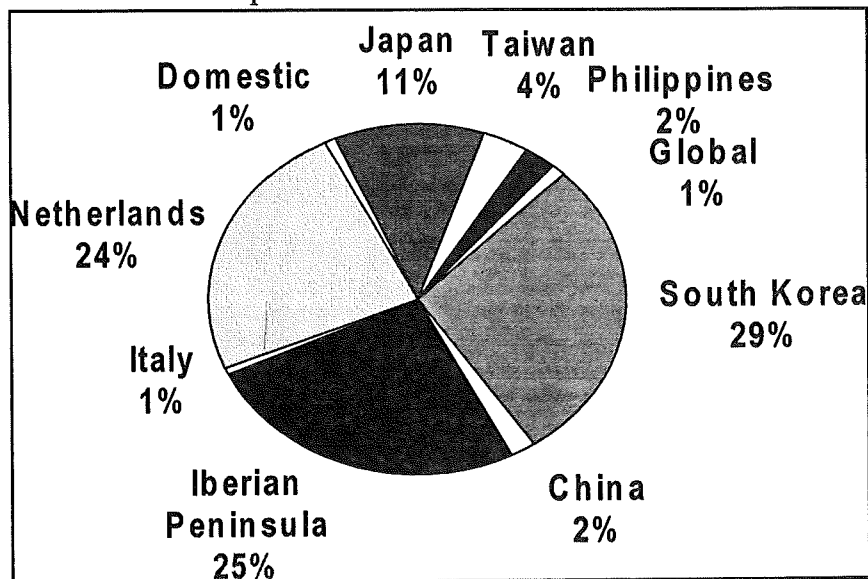
The European Union remains the largest importer of soybeans and soymeal. However, China has significantly increased consumption of protein meals in the last two years and this trend is expected to

continue.

International protein prices have fallen sharply since November 1997 under the combination of abundant world supplies and weak demand.

A record South American soybean crop on the heels of a large US crop in 1997 has resulted in an oversupply of protein materials. This has come at a time when the Asian currency crisis has severely reduced protein demand in this region.

Expectation for another large US soybean crop in 1998 is likely to keep protein prices under extreme pressure. The estimated Pool price for the 1998 crop is currently \$170-185 per tonne.

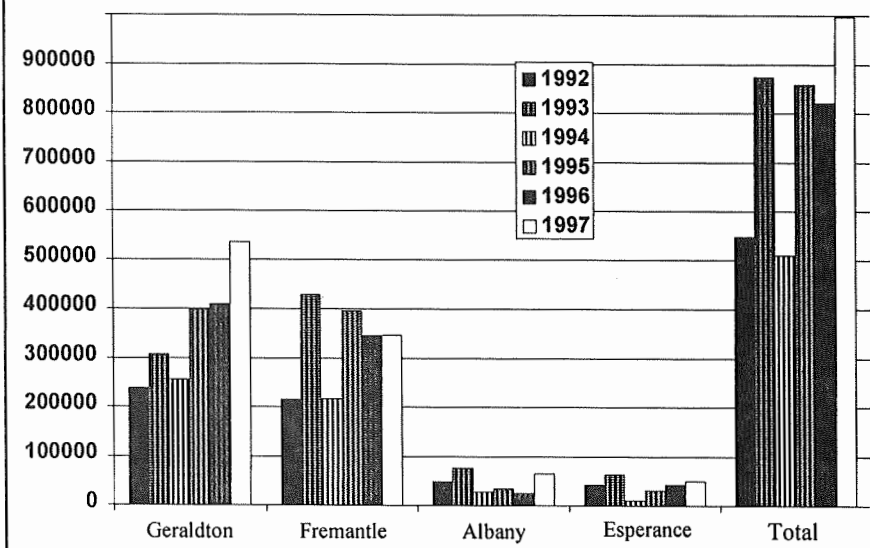


## Lupin receivals

CBH took in a record delivery of lupins this year with 998,963 tonnes - only 1,037 tonnes short

of the magical million mark.

The Geraldton region again led the way surpassing its previous record by over 100,000 tonnes.



## Seasonal conditions

All agricultural areas of the state have had an excellent start to the season.

Conditions for crop establishment have been good and many pulse crops sown mid to late April are now well advanced.

Farmers will need to monitor crops carefully for insects, pests and weeds over the next few weeks and take appropriate action.

Remember with the herbicide simazine that the weeds have to germinate and put out roots before the chemical is taken up.

So don't be too hasty in coming to the conclusion that the simazine isn't working.

The table below shows rainfall received for selected stations.



Pictured above is the Grain Pool's Southern regional officer Matthew O'Brien, examining a well established crop of faba beans in the Lakes District. The photograph was taken on the 9th of May.

Station	mm rainfall				Up to	Total to date
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May-25	
Albany	9	6	88	73	46	222
Badgingarra	0	0	4	26	47	77
Bencubbin	0	0	6	49	13	68
Beverly	0	0	14	19	24	57
Borden	0	0	70	49	13	132
Boyup Brook	4	0	104	20	49	177
Bruce Rock	0	0	2	38	7	47
Carnamah	0	0	0	5	56	61
Corrigin	0	0	15	37	7	59
Cunderdin	0	0	22	22	12	56
Dalwallinu	0	0	10	9	36	55
Esperance	0	0	7	16	30	53
Hyden	0	0	17	60	7	84
Jerramungup	2	5	42	74	32	155
Katanning	0	0	88	50	25	163
Lake Grace	0	0	23	68	15	106
Merredin	0	0	9	60	16	85
Moora	0	0	4	54	25	83
Morawa	0	0	6	3	67	76
Munglinup	0	9	7	60	9	85
Narembeen	0	0	29	40	3	72
Narrogin	0	0	34	62	25	121
Northampton	0	0	5	12	60	77
Ravensthorpe	0	7	33	100	11	151
Southern Cross	2	0	6	57	26	91
Wongan Hills	0	0	4	25	22	51

### AgraCorp Pulse Indicator Prices 25 May

Grain	Price (\$/T)
Desi chickpeas	\$323
Field peas (milling)	\$247
Faba beans (No.2)	\$230
Lupins	\$180

Note: Prices are basis Fremantle  
Contact AgraCorp for prices for  
other zones.

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