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Recommended Citation

(1998), *Legume Logic Number 100*. The Grain Pool of W.A., Perth. Book.

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LEGUME LOGIC

Global Vision, Local Focus
100TH ISSUE

Editor: Peter Nelson
Print Post Approved 602669/00324

ISSN 1440-7930

Press the seed, not the soil

One of the highlights of AgWA's field research this year has been the results obtained by Mohammad Amjad, who has determined that it is better to press the lupin seed into the ground rather than press soil on top of the lupin seed.

Both of these methods ensure good seed soil contact, but lupins are more sensitive to soil crusting and soil strength above the seed and respond to being pressed into the soil, rather than loose soil being pressed on top of them.

Seed pressing gave a 6% and 24% better emergence and a 12 and 17% better yield than the conventional method of press wheel pressing, with and without harrows respectively.

Mohammad's presentation of his results at field days this year was first rate, captivating his audiences with the significance of this research. 'I am sure many people who heard him will have gone home to try out his "tomato establishment technique", which is to put the tomato seed on the

ground and press in with the foot rather than dig a hole with the finger, place the seed and then press soil on top. Mohammad tells me that many farmers have adapted their machinery to be able to press the seed into the ground, not only for lupins but also for cereals, pulses and canola.



Mohammad Amjad, demonstrating the seed pressing method at the Merredin Dryland Research Institute.

Third European legume conference - Spain

Last week I attended the third European conference on grain legumes, held in the central Spanish city of Valladolid, where over 340 delegates representing 42 countries attended. Currently, pulse

production in the European Union is stagnant, and several countries are actually reducing pulse production levels. Last year, 1.8 million hectares produced 4.9 million tonnes of product; France with its pea

production made up 65% of this tonnage. Europe has a serious deficiency of protein materials, however competitiveness of other crops inhibit pulse production, and as time goes on further economic constraints to grain legume production are to be expected.

Pulse Points

- The chickpea market reached record levels at \$448/tonne after the first shipment was completed out of Geraldton, bound for Bangladesh.
- There has been a slight turn around in the lupin market, with both North and South America producing less than expected tonnages of soybeans this year. The oncoming La Nina effect is expected to have a negative effect on 1999 production as well.

Wodjil Lupins

AgraCorp Pty Ltd, in partnership with Paramount Seeds, are placing Wodjil[®] yellow lupins on the market for the first time this year. The variety was delayed for one season for industry to be able to multiply adequate seed to meet grower demand.

The available seed will include a level of contamination of either Merrit or Gungurru narrow leaf lupins. The decision to release contaminated seed was deliberately taken by Agriculture WA in the best interests of those growers for whom the yellow lupins should provide a useful

Seed quality tests

All grain legume seed intended for planting in 1999 should be tested. The table below lists some of the tests available.

Disease is the main threat to emerging pulse industries.

Tests available	Lupins	Chick peas	Peas	Faba beans	Lentils
Germination %	✓		✓	✓	✓
CMV	✓	✓		✓	✓
Seed size	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BGM*		✓			
Chocolate spot				✓	
Anthracnose	✓				
Ascochyta	✓				
Black spot			✓		

legume alternative on the acidic high aluminium Wodjil[®] soils. It should be clearly understood that this is an experimental release of a new crop species for Western Australia. The variety has been released to enable growers to experiment with this crop to determine where it might fit into their farm system and the level of narrow leaf contamination will not have any impact on this outcome.

The seed has been deliberately increased this season on Wodjil[®] sites where narrow leaf

It is vital to ensure we are using viable disease free seed.

Ascochyta was recorded on a chickpea crop in Western Australia for the first time this year. It is a disease which seriously threatens the viability of the chickpea industry.

lupins normally perform relatively poorly to minimise the contamination levels.

AgWA is in the process of producing a clean line of seed, free of narrow leaf lupins, and this will eventually be available to growers who determine that Wodjil[®] has a place in their cropping system.

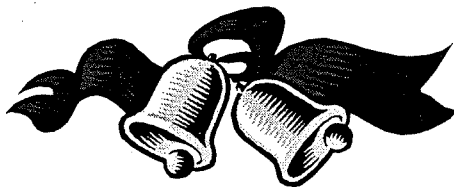
Growers considering Wodjil[®] should bear in mind that it is very susceptible to both aphids and anthracnose, but these are anticipated to be lesser problems in the lower rainfall areas where Wodjil[®] soils occur. Wodjil[®] is readily outyielded on non Wodjil[®] soils by narrow leaf lupins.

Growers producing seed this year have reported excellent crops and have been pleased with their growth throughout the year. Growers wishing to purchase seed can do so through their local agricultural retailer.

Season's greetings & 100 issues for Legume Logic

Starting out as Lupin Logic in July 1990, Legume Logic has become the 'flagship' of the extension campaign to encourage legumes in farming systems and this is the 100th edition of the publication. In seven seasons, lupin deliveries to CBH have almost tripled, and we expect well over a mil-

lion tonnes to be delivered this harvest. The staff at the Grain Pool wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, and a successful harvest.



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