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## Legume Logic Number 112

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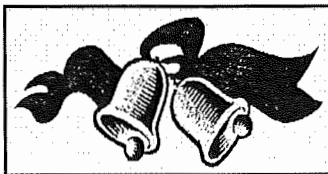
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# LEGUME LOGIC

Global Vision, Local Focus

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Articles in this issue highlight the importance of management decisions, recognising that harvest is a critical time for growers making decisions regarding seed retention for next year's plantings. It cannot be overemphasised the care required in selecting seed for next year.

*From the editor* - The Grain Pool of WA wishes all our readers a successful harvest and a festive Christmas and New Year.

## Pea Seed Quality for 2000

For growers interested in sowing field peas for the first time next season it is essential that high quality seed of sound viability and relatively free from disease is purchased\*.

As it is impossible to judge these characteristics by visual appraisal it is therefore necessary to conduct a seed test prior to purchase.

AGWEST provides a pea test-pack which provides a black spot test on 400 peas, germination test and 1000 seed weight for \$159.

AGWEST's "Growing Field Peas" - Bulletin 4239 is an excellent source of information on growing peas.

*\*Low levels of black spot infection is important if peas have not been grown in the area before.*

Key points for pea growing:

- select a well-drained loam to clay soil (free of sticks, stones and residual sulfonyl urea herbicides) not sown to peas for the last four years or adjacent to an old pea stubble;
- use seed which has a high germination percentage, relatively free from disease and treated with the correct rhizobia and fungicide;
- establish a minimum of 45 plants per square metre;
- roll paddock after planting.

AGWEST is now distributing seed testing kits through CBH receival points. Simply pick up a kit, follow the sampling instructions, complete the form and deposit the pre-addressed sample bag at a post office for free postage.

## Chickpea Quality

Chickpeas are sold to international markets on the basis of visual appraisal, which is why it is critical to maintain uniform colour and size with chickpea deliveries.

Black chickpeas, in a white chickpea sample, will detract from the quality of a load.

Sona and Heera are marketed as pale-coloured chickpeas and the presence of darker ones will result in the sample being downgraded.

One third of the Heera and Sona deliveries into the Geraldton CBH receival point this season have been downgraded from premium to standard 1 or 2 grade due to colour problems.

These off-types appear to be the result of both genetic and environmental factors.

Samples of these seed lots have been given to AGWEST for examination.

Growers should take steps to purge the poor colour seed stocks for planting in 2000. The Sona and Heera accepted by CBH this season are still considerably better than the Tyson variety, hence the \$25/tonne premium.

	1999/00 Pool Indicator	Harvest Advance per tonne	Remaining Equity
Lupins	\$150-155	\$118	\$28

# Seed decision making for fungal diseases - Dr Mark Sweetingham

The following data has been compiled to enable growers to make decisions regarding lupin and chickpea seed retention for next season. A key point to remember is the level of disease infection in the seed at which production loss will exceed the cost associated with switching to a cleaner seed source.

Technically there is a critical *seed infection threshold* for every situation into which the seed will be sown. This threshold depends on five factors; the susceptibility of the variety to disease, whether fungicide seed treatment is to be used, the climatic environment in which the seed will be sown (rainfall is critical), the relative importance and proximity of other sources of infection (eg. stubble, alternate hosts) and the price of seed and associated costs with changing seed.

## Lupin Anthracnose

*Tangil, Wonga* (resistant) and *Kalya* (moderately resistant)

Use the 1000 seed test:

**Do not sow seed with more than the following levels of infection -**

Variety	High rainfall zone	Medium rainfall zone	Low rainfall zone
Tanjil, Wonga, Kalya	0.4% 0.1%	1% 0.4%	2% 1%

*Gungurru, Merrit, Belara* (moderately susceptible), *Myallie, Tallerack, Quilnock* (susceptible), *Wodjil* (very susceptible), *Kiev Mutant* (extremely susceptible)

Use the 10,000 seed test:

Variety	Test result	High rainfall zone	Medium rainfall zone	Low rainfall zone
Gungurru, Merrit, Belara	Positive	Do not sow	Can sow if anthracnose levels in source crop were low. Cleaner seed preferable.	Sow if anthracnose levels in source crop were low.
	Negative	Safe to sow*	Safe to sow	Safe to sow
Myallie, Tallerack	Positive	Do not sow	Do not sow	Sow if anthracnose levels in source crop were low
	Negative	Safe to sow*	Safe to sow	Safe to sow
Wodjil	Positive	Do not sow	Do not sow	Sow if anthracnose levels in source crop were low
	Negative	Sow with caution*	Safe to sow	Safe to sow
Kiev Mutant, other Albus	Positive	Do not sow	Do not sow	Do not sow
	Negative	Sow with caution *	Safe to sow	Safe to sow

\* regardless of seed test, these varieties are not recommended in northern high rainfall zones where infected blue lupins are common

Variety	Test result	High rainfall zone	Medium rainfall zone	Low rainfall zone
All	Positive	Do not sow	Do not sow	Do not sow
	Negative	Sow if ascochyta was not found in source crop	Sow if ascochyta was not found in source crop	Safe to sow

## Pulse Points...

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- Tyson variety chickpeas are becoming unsaleable on the international market due to their small size and colour. Heera and Sona, lighter varieties with a larger seed size, are the preferred product although due to off-type seeds
- are still below international standards.
- The anticipated increase in pea plantings next year will expose pea exports to international influences and as such growers can expect strong volatility ranging between
- premium food prices and international feed protein price.
- There has been favourable market reaction to the quality of lentils (Cumra and Cassab) lentils produced in WA this year.

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