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LEGUME LOGIC

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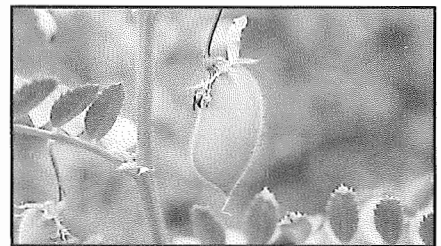
Disease strategies for WA Chickpeas

The December 1999/January 2000 edition of "Pulse Update" from Pulse Australia reported on Eastern States' chickpea growers success in combatting Ascochyta Blight. According to the article, "*Chickpea strategies successful in the North*", farmers and agronomists who followed recommended strategies to combat Ascochyta, generally reduced the impact of the disease, with some crops in the region recording record yields, and subsequent gross margins of over \$500/ha.

The key points included:

- Using 'low risk seed'. This was seed tested and free from Ascochyta.
- Treating all seed with P-Pickel T.
- Allowing a minimum of 500 metres between previous season's chickpea stubble and the new crop.
- Applying the first fungicide sprays five to seven weeks after sowing chickpeas.
- Monitoring the crop at least every two weeks and applying fungicide spray before rain.

News of a successful management strategy is encouraging for WA chickpea growers who battled Ascochyta Blight for the first time last year. A chickpea production package is offered by AGWEST for the 2000/01 season.



Chickpea pod

Grower Outlook Meetings 2000

Date	Time	Venue	Comment
February 18	10am	Williams District Club	Refreshments and lunch
February 21	11am	Lake Grace Bowling Club	Refreshments and lunch
February 21	5pm	Lake King Sports Pavilion	BBQ and refreshments
February 22	7am	Jerdacuttup Hall	Breakfast meeting
February 22	5pm	Jerramungup Recreation Centre	BBQ and refreshments
February 23	7am	Wellstead Hall	Breakfast meeting
February 23	2pm	Tambellup Bowling Club	Refreshments
February 24	7am	Katanning Recreation Centre	Breakfast meeting
March 13	2pm	Corrigin, Cyril Box Pavilion	Refreshments
March 14	9am to 5pm	Esperance Civic Centre	In co-operation with AgWA/ Breakfast meeting

TYSON - DOWN FOR THE COUNT ?

International human consumption markets for chickpeas favour the larger and lighter coloured varieties, such as Heera and Sona. WA farmers growing Tyson chickpeas should be aware it is a smaller, darker seed and consequently will be less attractive to the market and therefore not able to attract premium prices.

* Number 113 was inadvertently missed.

Coloured Chickpeas

Chickpeas are sold in international markets on the basis of visual appraisal. Black, speckled or discoloured chickpeas lower the value of a light coloured chickpea consignment. The visual appraisal of chickpeas is despite the fact that the end product is ground into Besan flour, where the consumer does not see the seed coat.

The Grain Pool is investigating the feasibility of using electronic colour sorters to clean-up seed samples.

Research is currently being conducted by the University of WA, Muresk and AGWEST into chickpea discolouration. Initial research suggests that at least part of the problem may be genetic.

Pulse Points

• There has been a recent recovery in the soybean and soymeal futures market in the last half of January. The rally has resulted in an improvement in sales prices being generated in export markets for lupins.

• Growers looking to produce faba beans next season should follow stringent management practices to ensure premium prices.

This season saw substantial quality improvements in WA faba beans. Quality is now on par with the South Australian and ahead of Queensland, NSW and Victorian product.

WA currently has a reputation for producing low quality beans.

Kayla Substitutes

There have been several enquiries regarding the Lupin recommendations in last month's issue of Legume Logic.

The table was compiled using information from the AGWA Crop Production Sowing Guide 2000 Bulletin 4372.

In brief, Kalya, while moderately resistant to the disease Anthracnose, will not handle extreme cases of the disease.

In the recommendations, Tanjil and Wonga were preferred varieties.

Severe cases of Anthracnose are likely to be found in the high rainfall parts of the H1, H2, M1 and M2 regions of the map and in the presence of the WA blue lupin.

Pea Production Parameters

Results from last harvest indicate that field peas achieved high yields statewide. The yields are indicative that the area sown to peas the following season will increase, sometimes by as much as 50 per cent.

The most important production factor with regard to the field pea is the avoidance of Blackspot.

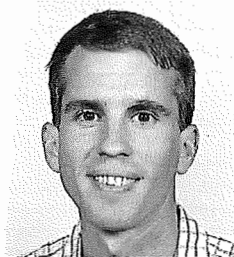
Katanning-based Pulse Agronomist with AGWA, Dr Neil Brandon, suggests growers maintain their vigilance against the disease.

"If you want to keep blackspot under control on your farm and if you want to help the WA chickpea industry to

grow in general - don't seed field peas too early," he said.

The ideal sowing window for field peas occurs 7 to 28 days after the break of the season (irrespective of the rainfall zone).

- Low rainfall - early May/ mid June.
- Medium rainfall - mid May/late June.
- High rainfall - late May/ late June.



Dr Neil Brandon, AGWA

Anthracnose

Complacency may result in the disease Anthracnose seriously affecting WA lupin production.

All lupin seed to be sown for the 2000 crop and in the future should be seed treated with a Thiram-based fungicide.

Cumra and Cassab

Bulking up of lentil lines in Australia this year revealed that Cumra variety is very susceptible to the disease Ascochyta.

Growers are advised that Cumra should not be grown in the medium/high rainfall areas.

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