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Growing Superseded Varieties?

The table below shows lupin varieties planted last year in shires growing more than 20,000 hectares. It is interesting to note that while these shires represent only 22% of all shires in agricultural areas, they plant 64% of the total lupin crop.

The disease anthracnose has encouraged farmers in northern shires to move to lupin varieties such as Kalya and Wonga, which have some resistance to the disease. For example, the Mingenew and

Greenough shires have planted 40% and 32% of their lupin areas to resistant varieties respectively.

Danja (released in 1986) remains an important variety in the shires of Lake Grace, Kondinin, Merredin and Mukinbudin, and in other eastern shires growing less than 20,000 ha annually. AGWA recommendations indicate that there are varieties such as Kalya and Belara that consistently yield about 10% more than Danja.

1999 lupins grown in shires sowing more than 20,000 ha.

Shire	Belara	Danja	Gung- urru	Kalya	Merrit	Myallie	Wonga	Others	Area
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ha)
Dalwallinu	6	1	20	16	38	18	1	0	70,504
Mullewa	7	0	59	13	17	0	1	3	66,607
Northpton	20	1	36	11	29	0	1	2	59,022
C. Valley	11	0	62	13	8	1	0	5	55,256
L. Grace	1	11	10	14	43	18	0	3	40,812
Perenjori	7	1	15	11	37	24	2	3	35,326
Mingenew	7	0	37	30	7	8	10	1	35,252
Won/Bal	8	0	39	15	14	20	0	4	34,236
Cunderdin	18	0	17	6	45	11	0	3	29,000
Moora	7	0	60	12	9	8	1	3	28,459
Bruce Rock	5	1	19	12	34	26	0	3	24,319
Kondinin	2	8	20	8	35	24	0	3	23,765
3 Springs	4	0	41	7	40	0	7	1	23,599
Coorow	7	0	14	23	44	9	0	3	23,304
Esperance	9	1	20	9	56	1	3	1	22,404
Morawa	6	0	3	10	65	9	0	7	22,368
Greenough	5	0	63	22	0	0	10	0	21,245
Dowerin	3	0	22	3	43	27	0	2	20,588
Merredin	3	7	10	5	15	54	1	5	20,449
Mukinbudin	2	20	3	13	27	33	2	0	20,079

Ascochyta Blight and Chickpeas

It was reported in the April 2000 issue of the Agriculture WA publication, Pestfax 20, that ascochyta blight was noted on self-sown chickpea crops in the Merredin region.

"Infected volunteer plants will act as a source of ascochyta inoculum for the coming season," said Jean Galloway, plant pathologist with AGWA.

"When planting chickpeas this year farmers should ensure the paddock is at least 500 metres from last year's chickpea stubbles," she said.

It is recommended that all prospective chickpea growers read the April edition of "On the Pulse", which comprehensively covers this disease and provides guidelines for its control.



Ascochyta blight on chickpea leaves.

ABARE Survey

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics (ABARE) has just released some interesting figures on the physical and financial profile of farms in three regions of WA from 1995-99.



ABARE farm profiles from three regions in WA (*below*) and locations of the regions (*above*).

Parameter	Northern	Eastern	Central
Sample no.	16	11	51
Farm area (ha)	2,961	5,196	1,983
Sheep no.	2,366	2,378	3,511
Crop area (ha)	1,567	1,795	871
% cropping	53	42	43
Wheat (t/ha)	1.8	1.6	2
Barley (t/ha)	1.9	1.5	1.9
Age operator (yrs)	52	43	51
Capital value*	1,753,000	1,449,000	1,738,000
Farm income*	183,000	173,000	99,000
Farm profit*	90,000	81,000	31,000
Rate of ret (%)*	7.2	8.7	3.6

* 1999-2000

Extracted from ABARE research

Pulse Points

- Gujarat, the major pulse growing area in India, is affected by drought and as a result total pulse production will fall significantly. This is currently being reflected in the prices offered for Australian pulses.
- Canada and US are planning to increase pulse plantings at the expense of cereals. We will be watching with interest to see whether these proposals are put into practice.

Wodjil Lupins

At a meeting at Muntadgin last month growers were asked to indicate if they would be interested in growing the yellow lupin variety, Wodjil, at a premium of \$30 per tonne above the pool price for narrow-leaved lupins.

There was a resounding lack of interest.

Growers pointed out that the cost of aphid control (often 3-5 sprays), yield and susceptibility to frost made it an unattractive proposition, even with a \$30 premium.

The yellow lupin, *Lupinus luteus*, does have significant nutritional advantages and under certain situations agronomic benefits.

Dr Bevan Buirchell, Principal Plant Breeder with AGWA is currently bulking up yellow lupin lines for release. These lines are not only sweet, but are much more resistant to aphids.

Seasonal Reminders

Lupins:

1. Retain as much surface trash as practical to reduce brown spot problems. Remember that even the variety Myallie, without stubble, can be wiped out by brown spot.
2. Dry seed or wet seed.
3. Use Thiram as a seed treatment and consider a more rapid bulk-up of anthracnose resistant varieties.

Peas:

Use at least 125kg/ha of good

quality seed and plant 1 to 4 weeks after seasonal break. Ensure paddock is rolled following planting to facilitate easier, and safer, harvesting.

Chickpeas:

Follow AGWA recommendations for the management of ascochyta blight.

Faba beans:

Make sure inoculation with Group F inoculum is done properly. Sow in May. June sowing is on the late side.

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