

EPARF Member Technical Newsletter July 2017



What's happening in the paddock?

July rainfall in some areas of EP allowed sowing to finish, and has helped crop establishment in areas that did not come up in May. There are still large numbers of farmers on EP who have received less than 50mm for the May – July period with some below 50mm for the April-July period.

Cereal crops are at all stages of development – 2 leaf to head emergence often in the same paddock.

Paddocks and certain loamier soil types with optimum summer and autumn weed control stand out all over EP as the ones with better emergence in May.

Crop spraying and pasture manipulation has been occurring over the past few weeks. Conditions for herbicide application are not great in many areas, but compromises are being made to accommodate crop health, growth stage, and pest control.

Herbicide Choice

There are not many options for broadleaf weed control in cereal once the head starts moving in to the boot. Most products applied during early booting will cause yield damage. This stage of crop development is very important as the plant starts to establish the number of fertile florets in each head.

Many of the early emerging crops have rapidly reached 2nd or third node stage, so the window for application of 2,4-D or MCPA Amine or LVE is closing.

Patch spraying of some paddocks is warranted as some herbicides suited to the latter growth stages can damage the recently emerged 2-5 leaf plants.

For the later emerging paddocks, be aware that broadleaf herbicides may be applied up to 2 months later in the year than normal. This has implications for plant back periods. Be aware of plant back conditions particularly for products containing clorpyralid, imidazolinone (Clearfield technology) products, sulfonyl ureas, Velocity[®], Paradigm[®], and even flumetsulam.

It is important to get advice on appropriate herbicide use in crops with various growth stages, and in those under stress.

Yield Potential and N Application

Be realistic about your yield potential. Some of the crops that emerged on loamy soils in early May still have reasonable yield potential given some decent rainfall in the near future. Crops that emerged in July obviously have much lower yield potential given normal seasonal conditions from now on.

Cereals on pastures and pulse stubbles often have sufficient N reserves to produce a crop capable of yielding 1.2-1.8 t/ha (even more if you have excellent medics). If this is your realistic yield outlook, no more N may be required.

If you have a good understanding of your starting soil N level, you will be better placed to make a decision on late N application on the better soil types if good rainfall is received soon. Soil testing provides this important information to assist decision making later in the year.

Crop Diseases

Some moisture during July and warmer temps has allowed barley diseases like spot form of net blotch and net form of net blotch to show up in more crops. These diseases can reduce yield and require managing with seed dressings and foliar fungicides. Speak to your advisor about an appropriate management strategy.

Pasture Management

With paddock feed at a premium, pasture management is proving difficult. Most farmers are aiming to control grasses early in some paddocks to remove competition for the medic plants. If the medic growth is good, it will provide late spring feed and ground cover. The remainder of the paddocks will have grazing intensity managed to prevent early grass seed head emergence, with a view to spray topping/hay freezing when the heads emerge. If grazing pressure is not well managed, the timing and efficacy of grass control via spray topping can be difficult.

Brome grass and barley grass is running up heads in some paddocks where grazing intensity was low.

Russian Wheat Aphid Update

RWA populations are active in cereal crops in many parts of EP including Kimba, Koongawa, Warrambo, Wudinna. Lower levels of aphid activity can also be found further south, east and west of these areas. Winged aphids can now be found and movement will be occurring between crops and regions.

They are very likely present in all areas of EP, and don't show preference for the better crops – they are found in healthy and stressed areas of paddocks. Don't ignore this threat. Some densities are well above control thresholds and numbers are likely to increase as it warms up.

If control is warranted, it is very important to keep water rates high. 100 L/ha appears to provide much better control than 70 L/ha.

Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of damage. This link will help you identify the symptoms:

<http://cesaraustralia.com/sustainable-agriculture/pestnotes/insect/Russian-wheat-aphid>

Other Insects

Earth mites and lucerne flea are damaging recently emerged crops and medic pastures in many areas of EP. Where crops have just emerged, soil temps of 11.5 - 12 degrees at 10 cm have been common. These lower soil temps can slow crop emergence and early development making them

susceptible to insect attack. Once crops get past the 4-5 leaf stage, they can tolerate higher pressure from some insects, but many crops and pastures require treatment now.

Cow pea aphid can be found in some vetch and lentil crops, and green peach aphid is in many canola crops at levels that generally do not require control. Monitor for these pests as temps warm up.

Withholding Periods

Be aware of the withholding periods for grazing livestock on pastures after pesticide application.

Grazing Withholding Periods for common pasture pesticides

Active Ingredient	Grazing withholding period
Quizalofop	Vetch – 4 weeks Medic – 14 days
Clethodim	Medic – 14 days
Flumetsulam	Medic – 3 days
Haloxypop	Medic – 7 days
MCPA LVE/MCPA Amine 750ai	7 days
Dimethoate	14 days
Chlorpyrifos	2 days
Omethoate	1 day
Alpha cypermethrin	3 days

Upcoming Events

GRDC Research Update Kimba – August 10th

GRDC Research Update Cummins – August 11th

Buckleboo Sticky Beak Day – 30th August

MAC Field Day – 6th September

See the EPARF website for more events.

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