



# Central West Farming Systems

FARMERS ADVANCING RESEARCH

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## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED – Aug 2004

*Since no one has told us to stop, we will have a go at another one!*

### Stripe Rust Alert

The first case of stripe rust in Whistler and Diamondbird wheat, in the Caragabal area of southern NSW, was confirmed by Dr Gordon Murray on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Farmers are advised to keep a close eye on their susceptible wheat crops and to look for signs of the disease which include yellow pustules generally arranged in stripes along the upper leaf surface. If you notice these yellow pustules in your crop please contact your local agronomist for management and fungicide advice.

The average costs of some fungicides used to protect wheat from stripe rust are: Bayleton @ \$6.80/ha, Folicur @ \$12.80/ha, Bumper/Tilt @ \$13.30/ha and Tilt Xtra @ \$15.00/ha. For accurate costs in your area please contact your local advisor.

### Locusts

It is anticipated that locusts will begin to hatch in September in the north through to October in the south from autumn lays; however farmers are encouraged to look out for early hatchings. It's up to every landholder to report locusts to their local RLPB and to control bands on their private land. Once you report hatchings to the RLPB the chemical will be provided at no cost, however the cost of application is to be covered by yourself.

Locusts are easily controlled at the nymph stage with insecticides. During this stage nymphs will often come together in a dense gathering called a band. These bands can extend over a large area damaging all vegetation in their path. Landholders only have a 3 week period from when the nymphs

emerge till they become an adult and are more difficult to control. Please look at the locust growth stages on the back of this page to help you identify nymphs.

For more information on locust control please call the **Locust Hotline 1800 223 367**.

### Mice

In northern NSW farmers have begun perimeter baiting their crops around Narrabri and Moree because of rising mouse numbers. Although rising mouse numbers are occurring in the north, all farmers are encouraged to be aware of the problem. If you are concerned about the activities of mice in your crops use bait cards to monitor their activity and movements.

**The Farmers' Guide to managing Climate Risk** – a workshop for understanding weather and climate and managing the risks they bring. **Where** - Condobolin Agricultural Research and Advisory Station. **When** - 9<sup>th</sup> September (9am to 4 pm). **RSVP** - 6895 1025 for catering purposes.

**CWFS web site** ([www.cwfs.org.au](http://www.cwfs.org.au))

It has been operating since February 2004. Unfortunately we have had some trouble loading information onto the site and we hope to have it updated shortly. If you are having any trouble viewing our site (i.e. photos covering the writing) please let us know.

**Looking for faster internet access??** Talk to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts about HIBIS or ASDL connections on 1800 883 488.

Cath and Sharon

## CWFS Field Day Dates

### September

10<sup>th</sup> Friday – Merriwagga Regional Site Field Day

### October

7<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Weethalle Regional Site Field Day

8<sup>th</sup> Friday – Rankins Springs Regional Site Field Day

13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Condobolin ARAS Field Day

19<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Euabalong Regional Site Field Day

20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Tottenham Regional Site Field Day

21<sup>st</sup> Thursday – Gunning Gap Regional Site Field Day

27<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Wirrinya Regional Site Field Day

28<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Alectown Regional Site Field Day

For further information about any of these field days please contact Sharon Taylor – 6895 1050



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**Growth Stages of a Locust – 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Instar – can't fly and are easily controlled in bands  
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Instar - can fly and are not easily controlled**

