



Central West Farming Systems

FARMERS ADVANCING RESEARCH

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Locusts

Just in case you are as curious about the locusts as we are, we took some photos of 1st instar locusts that David Croft (NSW DPI, Wagga Wagga) had caught at Yenda on the 9/9/04. The critters would be no bigger than 0.5 cm. That's 2 of them taking up hardly any space on a blade of grass!



David had some great information. One of the most alarming facts for me was that each female can lay up to 360 eggs. In autumn, they were measuring

up to 50-60 locusts/m² over 100 ha. So if my maths is right, there could be about 9 000 eggs/m² in those areas. That's a lot of locusts!

David also said that Australian Plague Locusts are the only grasshoppers around here that band. And we'll know a band when we see one. It's a great teeming mass of nymphs all rumbling over each other moving about 100m per day.

So if you see the little critters make sure you report them to your local RLPB or the **LOCUST HOTLINE 1800 223367**.

These couple of pictures for identification can be found on the Australian Plague Locust Commission webpage www.affa.gov.au and in the little box called "Select by specialist area" click on the Plague Locust Commission.



Disclaimer: Whilst hoping this information may be of assistance to you, CWFS cannot guarantee the publication is without flaw or that it is wholly appropriate to your purposes and therefore disclaims any liability for error, loss or consequence on your reliance on said information.

OH&S

OH&S seems to be the latest swear word but it's really important that YOU start doing something about it as soon as possible. Find out what you have to do. Get your paperwork in order. Make a start. We always thought we were covered by NSW Ag, since we were at the same location. We're not. We have to have our own paperwork – like farmers and contractors.

Make sure you are covered. Not knowing is not an excuse.

Stripe Rust

Gordon Murray, plant pathologist at NSW DPI Wagga Wagga, has found stripe rust that is not following the text book. In young leaves he's found the stripe rust to grow across the leaves not just along it and it is on both sides of the leaf. Just to top it off, the pustules look brown, rather than yellow, later in the day. So if you see something like that, don't discount it. Call your friendly agronomist to come and check it out.

Gordon suggests checking crops weekly for stripe rust – especially now, a couple of weeks after rain. Be particularly alert if others in the district report outbreaks.

Field Days

The Field Day silly season has started. Merriwagga Regional Site kicked it off on Friday 10th September with a huge field day – 123 people.

Can your Regional Site beat 123 people???

A trophy will be awarded to the Regional Site with the biggest Field Day. Merriwagga has set the challenge – who can beat them?

Cath & Sharon

CWFS Field Day Dates

October

- 7th Thursday – Weethalle Regional Site Field Day
- 8th Friday – Rankins Springs Regional Site Field Day
- 13th Wednesday – Condobolin ARAS Field Day
- 14th Thursday – Ungarie Regional Site Field Day
- 15th Friday – Nyngan Regional Site Field Day
- 19th Tuesday – Euabalong Regional Site Field Day
- 20th Wednesday – Tottenham Regional Site Field Day
- 21st Thursday – Gunning Gap Regional Site Field Day
- 27th Wednesday – Wurrinya Regional Site Field Day
- 28th 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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