



Central West Farming Systems

FARMERS ADVANCING RESEARCH

PO Box 171 CONDOBOLIN NSW 2877 Ph. 6895 1001 Fax. 6895 2688

Email – catherine.evans@agric.nsw.gov.au sharon.taylor@agric.nsw.gov.au

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

October 2004

Locusts

We've had some nymph hatchings at the Core Site along the laneways. There are a fair few around so keep a look out.

Stripe Rust

Some snippets of information from a talk Gordon Murray gave, include - If you are spraying stripe rust, for about a week after spraying you may still see the rust developing and then it will stop. You may also get some leaf death in spots after spraying. The chemical should be taken up by the plant within a couple of hours.

In a report published by Gordon and Col Wellings, they say that there have been recent samples of barley grass infections. One sample has been identified as barley grass stripe rust (BGYR) although they expect that some may have the wheat stripe rust pathotype.

In wheat there has also been some "...head (spike) infection... expected to cause grain shrivelling resulting in increased screenings in severe situations." They have not observed seed discolouration but it has been reported by other researchers.

GRDC Nutrient Management Initiative Survey

This is an Australia-wide survey being conducted to help improve

- access to nutrient and fertiliser information
- fertiliser decisions made on farms
- yield and quality of crops
- efficiency, profitability and environmental care of fertiliser use.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and it's in a "Tick a box" style. We will be sending out the surveys and some will be

available at field days (with a reply paid envelope). You can also have your say by filling in the survey on the internet at

www.nutrientms.com.au/farmersurvey It should be a worthwhile 10 minutes of your time.

Half-dead heads

Roaming through the trials we've seen a lot of half-dead heads. This was caused by the hot weather in late September. The rain in early October was too late to save the tops of the heads. So... we may get half a harvest!

Funding issues

Just to keep you up-to-date on the funding situation for CWFS. On Oct 5th GRDC visited CWFS as part of their Spring Tour. It was a positive meeting and CWFS presented their future plans to GRDC, which seemed to be viewed in a positive manner. GRDC will be negotiating future projects with groups like CWFS in early 2005. Between now and then we need to source other funding to help make CWFS an attractive proposition for GRDC re-investment. So there is a fair bit of work still to be done before we're assured of a future.

Regional Sites will need to use whatever reserves they have to get through to at least June 2005 as, at this stage, there is no funding for the Regional Sites past Dec 2004. The next newsletter will fill you in on the plans the CWFS Executive put to GRDC.

Thanks for the positive feedback

We've received a lot of positive feedback about this little publication. Thanks for the support!

Sharon and Cath

CWFS Field Day Dates

October

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



POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

PO Box 171
Condobolin NSW 2877

CWFS Results in Brief

We thought we'd try this new little section that summarises some of the work published in the Compendiums.
SU, Zn/P in wheat; results from 2001 – 2003.

Work done by Ken Motley, David Harbison, Bob Thompson, Andrew Rice and Karen Roberts.

The work was done because some farm advisers in the central-west were suggesting that there was an interaction between crop damage done by sulfonylurea (SU) herbicides and crop nutrition, particularly zinc (Zn). There was no trial evidence in central-western NSW indicating wheat responses to Zn fertiliser, nor has the interaction between Zn fertilisers and SU herbicides been established. These trials were conducted for 3 years to obtain data for potential SU and Zn interactions in wheat in the central-west.

The trials found that -

- SU herbicides such as chlorsulfuron (e.g. Glean ®) did reduce wheat yields at some sites.
- Phosphorus (P) responses were closely related with soil P levels (e.g. if there was low soil P, there were good responses to P application).
- There was no response to Zn fertiliser on wheat.
- P and Zn nutrition did not interact with chlorsulfuron herbicide damage in wheat.