

Winter 2015 Trial Snapshots

1. Management of common sowthistle in fallow

A total of six trials are being conducted to evaluate either knockdown or residual control. Three trials will screen for herbicide mixing partners with glyphosate to improve sowthistle knockdown control with an additional three trials evaluating fallow residual control options.

2. Residual herbicides and crop safety

A large site has been established near Edgeroi to assess the potential of management practices to improve crop safety following the use of a wide range of herbicides that have plantback issues. The trials will evaluate the impact of cultivation and disc vs. tyne planting in two different soil types, for wheat, barley, durum, canola, chickpea and faba bean crop safety.

Three other trials are comparing the crop safety from a range of Group A herbicides applied at multiple timings prior to planting wheat.

3. Residual herbicides for grass control in wheat and chickpea

A continuation of project activity in 2014, to compare the impact of various at-planting herbicides in wheat and chickpea against both winter germinating grasses (annual ryegrass and wild oats) and spring germinating grasses (awnless barnyard grass, feathertop Rhodes grass, liverseed grass and windmill grass).

4. Faba bean desiccation

Three trials are planned to evaluate options for faba bean desiccation. Products will be applied at two growth stages.

5. Management of problem weeds in chickpea

Three trials have been initiated evaluating the efficacy of chickpea herbicide options against Mexican poppy, climbing buckwheat or slender celery.

6. Impact of 'levelling' after chickpea planting

Six large scale trials have been setup by growers and agronomists to enable an evaluation of the effects of using Kelly chains (or other methods) to level the ground after chickpea planting. The key factors to be measured are fallow water accumulation together with the impact on crown rot levels in the following cereal crop.

7. Nitrogen management in wheat

This is a continuation of project activity from 2014. Six trials have been established to compare urea and 'enhanced' urea products for crop growth, yield and quality. The trials also compare timing of urea application (pre-plant in autumn vs. at planting vs. in-crop).

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8. Improving paraquat efficacy

Three trials are planned to evaluate the impact and consistency of herbicide mixtures with paraquat for the control of winter grasses. This includes further evaluation of paraquat and isoxaflutole tank mixes.

9. Powdery mildew in Canola

One trial has already been planted in collaboration with Pacific Seeds at Gatton. Two trials are planned in commercial crops in the Liverpool Plains to Goondiwindi area. **Please contact us if suitable powdery mildew trial sites are found in commercial crops.**

10. Root Lesion Nematodes

The winter component of our flagship trial site near Macalister has finally been planted. This site includes an evaluation of eleven winter crop types and over 1600 experimental plots. All varieties are planted in both high (30/g soil) and low (3/g soil) *Pratylenchus thornei* plots. The site will be further utilised for summer crop plantings later in the year.

11. Biological farming inputs

One of a series of eight 'two year' trials being conducted around Australia. These trials are comparing a range of biological treatments against current district fertiliser practices. The biological treatments include humates, biostimulants, live microbial inocula and alternative fertilizers together with aged or composted feedlot or chicken manures.