

Monday 21 September

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Cereal Cyst Nematode still a real threat

During the 80s and early 90s CCN caused major problems for farmers in the Wimmera Mallee. Cereal Cyst Nematode (CCN), a plant pest caused by *Heterodera avenae* (a plant pathogenic nematode) causes yellow or pale green patches in young crops. Affected plants are stunted, have fewer tillers and lack vigour. CCN becomes more problematic in areas where intensive cereal cropping occurs. The disease will only infect, feed and develop on cereals and other grasses (particularly wild oats).

In recent times CCN's affect on cereal production has declined in the region due to carefully chosen resistant cereal varieties and strategic crop rotation. With CCN sitings low and therefore disease affects not widely publicised, farmers' focus is re-directed towards controlling other diseases such as yellow leaf spot, stripe rust and rhizoctonia.

Dr Russell Eastwood, AGT wheat breeder commented: "Ultimately farmers choose varieties based on what will give them the highest yield in current conditions. Second to this should be protecting yield. While diseases such as yellow leaf spot can be purely cosmetic CCN can cause up to 100% yield loss in severe cases. It's important that farmers don't lose sight of this. The fact that CCN can be present in this year's crops without being expressed until the following year plays in the favour of the disease. Just because CCN is out of site doesn't mean it should be out of mind."

Figure 1 shows a list of wheat varieties and their resistance rating to CCN, stem rust, stripe rust and yellow leaf spot. These varieties have been tested in the *Wheat on wheat* trial at the BCG St Arnaud Field Day. To find out more about wheat varieties and their susceptibility to CCN come to the *BCG St Arnaud Field Day*, 25km north of St Arnaud on the St Arnaud – Wycheproof road on Thursday 8 October 2009.

Figure 1: Wheat varieties trialled in the *Wheat on wheat* trial at the BCG St Arnaud Field Day

Description	Quality	Maturity	CCN	Stem Rust	Stripe Rust	YLS
Yitpi	AH	Mid	MR	S	MR – MS	S – VS
Correll	AH	Mid	MR	MR – MS	MR – MS	S – VS
Catalina	AH	Mid	MR	MR – MS	MR – MS	MS – S
Espada	APW	-	S	MR	MR – MS <sup>vr17</sup>	MS – S
Derrimut	AH	Ear-Mid	R	R – MR	MS <sup>vr17</sup>	MS – S
Young	AH	Ear-Mid	R	MR	MSvr17	MR – MS
Axe	APW	Early	S	MS	MR	S

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<b>CLF_STL</b>	APW	Mid	S	-	-	S
<b>Gladius</b>	AH	Mid	MS	MR	MR – MS <sup>vr17</sup>	MS
<b>Peake</b>	AH	Ear-Mid	R	MR – MS	MR – MS	MS – S*
<b>Lincoln</b>	AH	Mid	S	R – MR*	R – MR	MS – S
<b>Crusader</b>	-	-	-	MR – MS	MR – MS <sup>vr17</sup>	MR
<b>LPB05-1164</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>LPB04-0965</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>LPB05-2148</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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