

Liquid N - the way to go?

Introduction

- Farmers in Western Australia are preferentially using Liquid N, UAN (Urea Ammonium Nitrate) for their crops' N requirements
- In Victoria UAN is marketed by Incitec Pivot as Easy N - contains 42.5%N (10.5% Ammonium; 10.5% Nitrate; 21.5% Urea)
- In Western Australia UAN is applied:
 - when seeding and banded 5 to 10 cm away from the seed
 - with a boom spray - either before seeding or in-crop



Benefits

- Boom spray - can be mixed with herbicides and fungicides
- Timing - when required over large areas quickly
- N applied - in small amounts when crop needs it, leaf uptake up to 30%
- Storage - product quality remains over time

Sprayed during the day



Sprayed at night

Problems

- does not mix well in pure form with EC-formulated herbicides and fungicides (need to add water)
- no infrastructure in Victoria (WA is set up for delivery)
- leaf scorching if applied in warm, sunny weather

Other Issues

- Many years of WA trial work has shown that UAN is equal to urea (in terms of yield response) when applied at the same rate of N per kg
- WA farmers like it because of its flexibility (single pass; can mix with herbicides; targeted N application; storage is simple; similar price to urea)