



BCG *fax* BULLETIN



Fax bulletin 15 October 19, 2003

- **Rain today.** Only 3 to 7mm across our region. Nowhere near enough for crops on heavy soils - on light country it will help a bit. Crops from the northern Wimmera to the Mallee are now starting to tip. Early sown crops are faring better and will yield more unless there is a late finishing rain.
- **Crops are late.** Many crops are at least 7 days behind in flowering to where we expect them to be at this time of year. We will look at temperatures over winter to check why this may be the case.
- **Stem frost.** Stem frost has been identified in wheat crops north of St Arnaud today. There were no flowers present and upon closer inspection, a white or pale green patch about 1cm long was seen on the peduncle – the stem attached directly to the head. The peduncle may also be crimped or blistered. This damage prevents water and nutrients from being supplied to the ear and in the crops inspected today, the whole head is dead. Note that frost damage can not be identified by the ease at which the head and stem pulls away from the plant.
- **Disease status** of crops in the Wimmera and Mallee:

Crop	Disease observed	Management (and fungicide requirement)	Current growth stage (GS)
wheat	YLS in Yitpi	Not much movement into the upper canopy	51 to 71 (early head emergence to milky dough)
	Stripe Rust	see below	
barley (Gairdner)	SFNB (spot form of net blotch)	Not much disease moving into the upper canopy	59 to 80 (late head emergence to early dough)
	Leaf Rust	Not much	
	Scald	No growth of patches	
oats	none		59 to 79
canola	Black leg	Not much	podding
chickpeas	Ascochyta	Spray every two weeks	not flowering yet
lentils	Grey mould	Not much	early flowering to pods
beans	Ascochyta, Chocolate spot	Not much	early podding

- **Stripe Rust.** It appears that most of the Stripe Rust problems are behind us. With the warm/dry weather last week and adult plant resistance it looks like that the outbreak has finished, **BUT** there are a few cases where this is definitely not the case - there are some paddocks of H45, Krichauff and Mitre where the rust is sporulating actively (when you walk out of the paddock your boots and jeans are orange!). In these paddocks where hotspots are getting much bigger and most flag leaves now have Stripe Rust on them, spraying is essential – the risk is too high! Keep checking all wheat crops for at least this week.
- **Why so much Stripe Rust this year?** No news yet on Mitre.
- **Native budworm or Heliothis.** Numbers are still low but now is the time to check your pulse and canola crops. Threshold levels for ten sweeps are: Field Peas-5, Lentils-2, Beans-3, Canola 10 grubs/m².
- **Diamond back moth in canola.** These are a bit more common but not at levels where they will do damage. Compared to Budworm the DBM are pointy on both ends and wriggle when touched.
- **Hay paddocks.** Hay has been cut and baled in some areas. Check paddocks for re-growth of ryegrass, barley grass and brome grass. Spray with a knockdown if there is re-growth.
- **Weeds in lentils.** Wick wiping has started in Wimmera crops. Wick wiping is an excellent practice for removing ryegrass seed heads and also broadleaf weeds such as musk.

ACTION POINTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep checking for Rust in wheat for at least this week • Check pulses for diseases | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check hay paddocks for regrowth of problem grasses • Sweep pulses and check canola for Budworm |
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Farming Systems Field Day – Thursday October 23, 12.30 - 5pm (BBQ to follow)
30km north of Birchip on the Berriwillock Road