

Pulses looking good for coming season

Grain growers interested in potential yield increases of up to a tonne per hectare in their wheat crops, better soil condition, and savings on nitrogen fertiliser, have spent some valuable time recently learning of the benefits that pulses offer for their farming systems.

A series of pre-season pulse meetings has been held at Coonamble, Walgett, Narrabri, Garah and Wyallda in northern New South Wales, providing information about the latest varieties, local trial results, inoculants and best practice crop management strategies for 2008.

The meetings have been run by Pulse Australia and the NSW Department of Primary Industries, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

Pulse Australia's Gordon Cumming said it's shaping up to be an excellent winter, and a good time to put pulses such as chickpeas, faba beans and field peas back into rotation.

"Current high global demand is helping to make pulses very profitable for northern producers, with desi chickpeas currently trading at around \$500 per tonne.

"Pulse production has many other benefits, not least of which is as excellent break crops, reducing the incidence of cereal diseases such as crown rot.

"Free nitrogen is one of the biggest gains, saving on the ever-increasing cost of fertiliser. Combining this with the disease break benefits of pulses can result in increased yields of up to one tonne per hectare in the following wheat crop," Gordon said.

Preferred varieties and species

The pre-season meetings have covered a lot of ground for growers considering pulses this winter, including the advantages of different varieties.

"While Jimbour is very popular, growers need to consider the benefits that are offered by some of the newer varieties such as Yorker, Flipper and Kyabra. This means weighing up factors such as the farm's disease risk, the growers' ability to keep an eye on the crop and spray on time, and yield performance in the local area," Gordon said.

"There's a new desi variety due for commercial release in 2009, currently identified as CICA 0512, and participants at the meetings have been given a run down of its disease resistance, yield potential and agronomic requirements.

"Growers have also been reminded of the potential role of kabuli chickpeas in northern NSW. While they can be more difficult to grow, kabuli varieties offer some very attractive returns."

With inoculants now available as slurry or in freeze dried and granulated forms, there are many choices about delivery systems, and the pros and cons of each.

While faba beans and field peas are not suitable for all areas, they are an option in others.

"Field peas are currently being sold at almost double the long-term average price, with the variety Yarrum currently suitable for production in northern NSW.

"Because they're sold domestically as stockfeed, the price cycle is not linked to

chickpeas, so they can be a valuable way to diversify while providing all the associated agronomic benefits."

For more information about growing pulse crops this winter, contact your local District Agronomist, or Gordon Cumming at Pulse Australia on 0408 923 474.



SCARIMASTER



5.94M - 24M RIGID & FLOATING HITCH

- > 1.83 and 2.0 metre wheel spaces
- > 3 metre controlled traffic special (10 to 12 metres) working width
- > Break out 500, 650 lbs (with tynes at 710mm)
- > Hydraulic tyne option 700 lbs (with tynes at 710mm)
- > Adjustable tyne lengths (710 to 785mm)
- > Tyne spacing 200, 250 & 333mm – depending on wheel centres
- > 5 bar frame
- > 15.5/80 x 24 Gripster wheel equipment



Gessner Industries reserves the right to alter any specifications without notice.

Reap the benefits

GESSNER INDUSTRIES

20 Molloy Street, Toowoomba Q 4350 | www.gessner.com.au
P. 07 4634 3477 | F. 07 4633 1973 | E. manager@gessner.com.au