



Paddock & Pasture

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Season Ahead

With the last April and May being well ahead of average for all districts and, in many locations a full or near- full profile, we have some great opportunities for yield if we can hold it together through winter and very early spring.

We have seen some cereal crops burst with that good rain directly after sowing. These need to be replanted as soon as conditions allow.

Issues to be mindful of are:

- Mice, slugs, snails, and insects in establishing canola and other crops.
- Lots of self-sown cereals in many canolas and pulses that need to be taken care of.
- Low nitrogen levels in many paddocks, and maybe sulphur as well.
- Escapes from knockdowns, particularly glyphosate resistant ryegrass.

Late spring may still be a slight El Niño and the late sown crops may be exposed to heat at flowering.

We are expecting a big disease year in cereals, pulses, and canola and so be prepared for these issues ahead.

Special points of interest:

- Watch for insects
- Get grass weeds under control early
- Note herbicide misses and problem areas in paddocks
- Watch the increasing grain prices
- Look at issues around seeding and solutions
- Continue to monitor mice
- Monitor for Russian Wheat Aphid
- Collect samples of disease for ID
- Make sure your boom is set up efficiently for the conditions



Spray droplet size critical in heavy stubbles

With heavy residues left from 2016, it is critical that growers assess whether they can get their spray onto the target through the standing stubble. The heavier and taller the stubble the more issues there will be.

Targets like small ryegrass will present problems, and going finer with droplets will create issues of drift and lack of penetration into the stubble.

Normally a medium droplet would be preferred, but a coarse one in this case would work much better as it can be punched into the stubble under pressure and will explode at the soil surface to increase coverage.

Product selection will be important too this year. Sprays requiring good coverage in thick stubbles will probably not give good results.

Criteria for spraying under these conditions:

- Good volume 80l/ha,
- Ground speed should be reduced so that the stubble intercepts less spray,
- Boom height - make sure there is a double overlap,
- Pick an appropriate nozzle that is producing a small coarse to medium-sized droplet.

In addition, harvest management is very important. So, if weeds escape in crop herbicides due to stubble and coverage, we can contain seed set and have a plan in place to manage any blowouts.



Time to review 2017 seeding

In my 30 years as an Agronomist/Consultant, I don't think I have ever seen farms and farmers under so much operational pressure, for all sorts of reasons—battling for mice, wet sowing periods, the usual breakdowns, variable crop emergence thus compounding operations and many more.

My suggestion is - if you have finished cropping - now is a great time to sit down with your team and review your successes and failures so that timing improvements are made for the future success of the farm!

Suggested review topics to start with:

Sowing and Cropping

- How well did we manage harvest timing and residue management?
- What was our sowing efficiency per day?
- Should we start earlier, go wider or sow faster?
- Did we miss any spraying, rolling or topdressing opportunities and why?
- How are crops coming up?
- Did we sow too deep or too shallow? Have we incurred pre-emergence damage?

The Team

- Did we have enough labour?
- Have we got the right people to take the business to where we want it to be?
- Are we setting out roles, responsibilities and expectations for our team?
- Have the team performed to our expectations?
- Are we providing the right package and future for our team?



Disease ratings

	Barley - Foliar Fungicide activity ratings				
Product mL/ha	Powdery Mildew	Leaf Rust	Scald	Net Blotch Net Form	Net Blotch Spot Form
Radial – 420 Epoxiconazole Azoxystrobin	+++	++++	+++	+++(+)	+++
Custodia - 315 Tebuconazole Azoxystrobin	+++	+++(+)	++(+)	+++	+++
Amistar Xtra 400 Cyproconazole Azoxystrobin	+++	++++	++	+++	+++
Opera - 500 Epoxiconazole Pyraclostrobin	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
Prosaro - 150 Tebuconazole Prothioconazole	+++	+++	+++(+)	+++	+++
Orius - 145 Tebuconazole	++(+)	++(+)	++	+(+)	+
Soprano - 250 Epoxiconazole	++	+++	+++	++(+)	++
Bumper 625 - 100 Propiconazole	++	++	+++	++	+++

Wheat - Foliar Fungicide activity ratings									
Product mL/ha	Stripe Rust	Leaf Rust	Yellow Leaf Spot	Stem Rust	Glume Blotch Septoria nodorum	Speckled Leaf Blotch Septoria Tritici	Eyespot	Fusarium Head Blight	Powdery Mildew
Radial - 420 Epoxyconazole Azoxystrobin	++++	++++	+++(+)	+++(+)	+++(+)	+++(+)	++(+)	+++	+++
Custodia - 315 Tebuconazole Azoxystrobin	+++	+++(+)	+++	+++	++(+)	++(+)	+	+++	++(+)
Amistar Xtra - 400 Cyproconazole Azoxystrobin	+++	++++	++	++	++(+)	++(+)	+	++	++
Opera - 500 Epoxyconazole Pyraclostrobin	++++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++
Prosaro - 150 Tebuconazole Prothioconazole	+++	+++	+++	++++	+++	++(+)	+++	++++	+++
Orius - 145 Tebuconazole	+++	+++	++	+++	++	++	+	+++	++(+)
Soprano - 250 Epoxyconazole	++++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	++
Bumper 625 - 100 Propiconazole	++	++(+)	+++	++	++?	+?	+	++	+

Fungicide Pricing

Different combinations of fungicides are now available. Different activities and pricing are the norm for fungicide selection.

Here is a list of pricing for the coming season.



Veritas	\$24.95/L	315ml \$7.85	630ml \$15.70
Amistar Xtra	\$35.50/L	400ml \$14.20	\$800ml \$28.40
Tazer Epert	\$17.95/L	1L \$17/95	2L \$.35.90
Opera	\$34.00/L	500ml \$17.00	1L \$34.00
Radial	\$28.00/L	420ml \$11.75	600ml \$16.80 840ml \$23.52
Tebuconazole	\$10.50/L	145ml \$1.52	
Epoxyconazole	\$19.00/L	250ml \$4.75	500ml \$9.50
Propaconazole 625	\$28.50/L	100ml \$2.85	200ml \$5.70

Lontrel Comparison

Just remember that there are 2 strengths of Lontrel out there - 600g/L and 300g/L. So be careful which you are using and check the recommendations.

Typical use rates

300g/L Cereals 75ml
 Canola 150ml
 600g/L Cereals 37ml
 Canola 75ml

You can mix them as required but don't get the drums confused! Remember to have a marker pen handy and write on them if you're going to have them for a while so there won't be any mix ups.



Diseases in Canola and Aviator Xpro

With the season progressing well many Canola crops are approaching the 4-6 leaf stage. Paul Crack from Bayer has sent me these comparisons between Prosaro and Aviator Xpro showing that the low rate of Aviator (550ml) is rated as better than Prosaro.

In all of their trial work over the past few years Aviator has consistently performed well, demonstrating higher disease control for longer.

Target diseases in canola

Rate / ha	blackleg	sclerotinia
Aviator Xpro 550 mL	★★★★	★★★
Aviator Xpro 650 mL	★★★★	★★★★*
Aviator Xpro 800 mL		★★★★

★★★★★ better than best commercial standard (Prosaro)
 ★★★★★ same level as best commercial standards
 ★★ good efficacy
 ★ side effects

Rate and price comparison

Rate / ha	Per Hectare				
	Prosaro 375 mL	Prosaro 450 mL	Aviator Xpro 550 mL	Aviator Xpro 650 mL	Aviator Xpro 800 mL
Canola - blackleg	\$27.37	\$32.85	\$29.97	\$35.42	
Canola - sclerotinia	\$27.37	\$32.85	\$29.97	\$35.42	\$43.60

Prices based on Aviator Xpro = \$54.50/L, Prosaro \$73.00/L

Crop topping the key to controlling broadleaf weeds in beans

The GRDC has put out advice noting that crop topping and crop rotations are the keys to managing broadleaf weeds like Prickly lettuce and sowthistle (milk thistle) in pulse crops.

Dr Chris Preston of the University of Adelaide says that many of the 2016 crops of faba beans were dotted with infestations due largely to the wet season. This caused interference with harvest operations and contaminated the grain – reducing the quality of the crop overall.

Dr Preston recommends crop-topping preharvest with paraquat mixed with Sharpen® as the most effective measure in reducing broadleaf weed biomass at harvest.

Glyphosate is also registered as a pre-harvest application to reduce broadleaf biomass in pulses but, unfortunately, there are populations that are resistant. “That is why paraquat – mixed with Sharpen® to give it a bit more ‘punch’ is our best option,” said Dr Preston.



The issue of herbicide resistance in Clearfield® crop varieties is an increasing one as resistance to imidazolinone chemistry can evolve quickly. Surveys on sowthistle indicate that there is now 90% resistance to sulfonylurea and 83% resistance to imidazolinone herbicides.

Growers have been planting Clearfield® crops and using that technology repeatedly, but some broadleaf weeds have selected for it and become resistant. Herbicide carryover is another big issue.

Growers use it and it may carry over in the following season so they grow another Clearfield® crop.

He says what needs to be done is to look at the crop rotation in order to manage these weeds.

“We grow pulses because they are profitable, have broader farming system benefits and help us to manage grass weeds. But now we have to turn that around and get the broadleaf weeds under control in the cereal phase,” said Dr Preston.



“The advantage that we have from these weeds is that their seedbank life is short.” He says that effective control over 12 months can eliminate them from a paddock and doing so in this way before a paddock is sown to pulses will reduce the problem significantly.