

# The National Farmer

Issue 6 | June 2011

## Disease Management in Winter Crops

by Angus Blair (NFW Agronomist Cecil Plains)

Due to the weather outlook for winter, and the unprecedented wet summer season, care must be taken when choosing which winter crop to grow. Conditions are good for the spread of some diseases. Crop diseases require three things to survive and flourish, and they are the pathogen (disease), a host, and favourable weather conditions. The pathogens have carried over from last year's crop residue, in soil or on volunteers over the summer.



Strip Rust

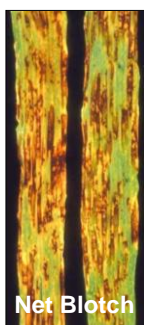
The diseases of significance in wheat include Strip Rust, Stem and Leaf Rust, and Yellow Spot. Leaf and stem diseases are more likely to be a problem in wetter years. Growers should consider varieties

that exhibit traits of resistance to some of the major pathogens. They should also consider a fungicide program. Stripe Rust was the major problem in 2010 wheat crops, with the WA, WAYr17 and Jackie pathotypes were predominant. Fusarium Head Blight FHB was also a problem for wheat in 2010. Unfortunately there is no known resistance to this disease and growers should not retain seed from crops that have had FHB.



FHB

Diseases of significance in barley include Net Blotch, Spot Blotch, Leaf and Stem Rust, FHB and Powdery Mildew. All barley seed should be treated with a fungicide and were possible should never be planted on last years barley ground, as many of the diseases survive on stubble. Growers can minimise the risk of diseases by sowing resistant varieties and adopting practises to reduce inoculums. Net Blotch has become the most significant disease of barley within the region. High levels of this disease (net and spot form) will kill leaves prematurely, and can result in yield losses of up to 30%. Net Blotch may be seed born, so planting seed should not be retained for planting.



Net Blotch

The take home message is that growers should consult there agronomist for crop type, variety and management options. All crops should be closely monitored, preferably by an experienced agronomist. "A little bit of advice can save you a lot of heart ache" says Angus.

### Test your knowledge on Soil

- Long term use of irrigation water having a high salt index is a primary cause of soils becoming \_\_\_\_?
  - Sodic
  - Acid
  - Toxic
  - Saline
- All of the following materials will raise the pH of an acid soil, except \_\_\_\_?
  - Dolomite
  - Calcium carbonate
  - Sulphur
  - Magnesium oxide
- Continued use of \_\_\_\_ will acidify soils.
  - CaSO<sub>3</sub>
  - Ammonium-based fertilizers
  - Poor quality irrigation water
  - Dolomite
- What kind of chemical problem exists in a soil that has white crusts where water evaporates?
  - Salinity
  - High pH
  - Low pH
  - Sodicity
- Applying \_\_\_\_ to soil will increase its pH.
  - Sulphur
  - Limestone
  - Gypsum
  - Aluminium
- For soils at the optimum pH, the most common ion on the exchange sites would be \_\_\_\_?
  - Calcium
  - Hydrogen
  - Aluminium
  - Potassium

### NFW Store Locator:

Toowoomba  
326 Anzac Ave  
07 4614 4000

Miles  
68-74 Murilla St  
07 4627 1076

Cecil Plains  
48 Toowoomba Rd  
07 4668 0888

Warwick  
24 Industrial Ave  
07 4667 0088

Cottonvale  
50 Middleton Rd  
07 4685 2136

Meandarra  
Talwood/Meandarra Rd  
0400 255 171

Coonabarabran  
28 Charles St  
02 6842 1362

**Heritageseeds**

Tomorrow's Pasture Today

## Introducing Arnie Diploid Annual Ryegrass

Strong early yields, good spring growth and rust resistance are some of the benefits for livestock producers of Heritage Seeds new annual ryegrass Arnie Diploid according to Heritage Seeds Product Development Manager Dr John Evans.

“Arnie is late flowering and has very good late spring production; it is a true annual so this has not come at the expense of autumn and winter growth. Most often short term ryegrasses that have good late season production do not have the winter growth of a true annual,” Dr Evans said. Arnie is a temperate grass suited to many locations along the eastern seaboard and into southern Western Australia.



“Arnie has been in over 30 replicated trials in the seven years we have been evaluating it in Australia and the trial sites stretch from Tasmania up the coast all the way to southern Queensland. Arnie has consistently been at or near the top of trials for winter production and is able to match Winter Starr II for late spring growth. For a variety to perform well in so many trails, over such diverse locations and seasons, is an indication of its wide adaptation giving confidence that it will continue to deliver the results,” Dr Evans said.

As a diploid variety Arnie is densely tillered and has a high dry matter content. It offers more available feed at the same growth height than other varieties, especially tetraploids. Its leaves are fine and it has an upright growth habit which means it will hold its leaves off the ground as yield builds in spring making grazing, and particularly silage and hay making more efficient.

Variety	Early spring (11th September)			Late spring (6th November)		
	ME (MJ/kg DM)	Protein (% DM)	NDF (% DM)	ME (MJ/kg DM)	Protein (% DM)	NDF (% DM)
Arnie	11.9	17	46.1	11.4	10.8	46.1
Maximus	11.6	18.4	44.7	10.9	12.1	49
Winterstar II	11.6	16.8	46.3	11.1	11.3	48.5
T-Rex	11.7	15	44.4	11.1	10.4	47.5

Feed quality results from early and late spring, Howlong 2009.

Arnie has very good feed quality. As you can see from the table on the left, Arnie has in fact tested to have better feed quality (lower NDF and higher ME) than comparable tetraploids. As Arnie is a diploid variety, it has smaller seeds than tetraploid annuals so a lower sowing rate (20kg/ha) will result in the desired planting density, making it more cost effective.

For more information on Arnie Diploid, contact Heritage Seeds on Free Call 1800 00 SEED or visit the website at [www.heritageseeds.com.au](http://www.heritageseeds.com.au).

To place an order, please contact your local National Farmers Warehouse. In Toowoomba, speak with Phil Paterson on 0427 642 490 or email [phil.paterson@nfw.com.au](mailto:phil.paterson@nfw.com.au).



## New Cereal Product offerings

Dow AgroSciences has consistently launched new chemistries into the Australian grain market for decades. In the last three years Dow has released three significant cereal herbicides to assist growers and their advisors control weeds while maintaining some flexibility in their cropping programmes. These herbicides, **Torpedo**, **Crusader** and **Conclude**, all contain actives that belong to the triazolopyrimidine sub-class of the ALS chemistry group (Group B/group II). The distinct benefits of this sub-class over other products from the ALS group (SU's or IMI's) are the low use rates, wide partner herbicide compatibility range and flexible plantback periods.

### Crusader Herbicide

Offering **class leading flexibility** in terms of **compatibility** and re-cropping intervals, Crusader has been widely adopted and is the true single pass post emergent weed control option.

#### Crusader Key Benefits:

- ✓ Cross spectrum (grass and broadleaf) weed control, ie wild oats, brome grass, phalaris, annual ryegrass
- ✓ A number of key broadleaf weeds are controlled by Crusader alone
- ✓ Class leading compatibility with no compromise on grass control
- ✓ Class leading plantback flexibility
- ✓ Small rainfall event only needed for complete breakdown of the active ingredients
- ✓ Only high quality non-ionic surfactants will be supported for use with Crusader
- ✓ Now registered for use in Triticale
- ✓ Now registered for the suppression on silver grass and barley grass



### Conclude Herbicide

Conclude offers growers a flexible broad leaf herbicide mixing partner to apply with a wide range of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides over all winter cereal crops. Conclude is an in-can mix of florasulam and MCPA LVE - some people call it "**LVE with grunt**"!

#### Conclude Key Benefits:

- ✓ Use on all cereal crops
- ✓ No crop residue issues for export oats
- ✓ Strong broadleaf weed control
- ✓ Wide compatibility range
- ✓ Use with Axial for one pass weed control
- ✓ 7 day grazing WHP (important in dual purpose "grain and graze" cereals)
- ✓ Cross label compatibility with Axial Herbicide
- ✓ Excellent partner with Hotshot for the weed spectrum found in Nth NSW and Southern Queensland



### Torpedo Herbicide

Torpedo Herbicide has developed a strong following among growers and agronomists for its strength in controlling key broad leaf weeds in cereal crops. An in-can mixture of clopyralid and florasulam, Torpedo is particular active on brassica weeds (turnip, wild radish, mustards), capeweed and volunteer legumes.

#### Torpedo Key Benefits:

- ✓ Strong broadleaf weed control
- ✓ Wide compatibility range
- ✓ Low use rates
- ✓ Now registered for use on all cereal crops including wheat, barley, oats, triticale and ryegrass



Dow AgroSciences is continuing to develop new products for the Australia grain grower. There are some exciting activities in the pipeline which we will be sharing with you soon.

## Top Tax Tips 2011

by Patrick Wilson (NFW In-house Accountant)



After a challenging year in the rural industry it is more important than ever before to review your business affairs prior to June 30 with your accountant to determine the best course of action for the current tax year. Pat's tips include:

1. Review business plans and cash flow forecasts with a best and worst case scenario, to work out if you have reserves you can draw on or if you will need to look to borrow. Consider a high interest account or farm management bond if you have extra cash. Alternatively if you will need to access cash, consider different types of finance available, including loans, overdrafts and leasing, and plan the timing and amount of repayments to best match expected cash flow.
  2. Review every investment on a yearly basis to determine if it is giving you the return you expected or if there is a better investment elsewhere.
  3. Is it possible to split loans between variable, fixed and capped rates to limit your exposure to interest rate risk?
  4. Do you have adequate insurance cover for your assets, including yourself and if there are any payments due prior to June 30 whether you want the expense in this years tax return.
  5. Determine if there is any business expenses that can be delayed until after June 30 if income is low. Conversely if income is high then look to pay any business related expenses prior to June 30.
- There is many more tax planning ideas that could be very beneficial to you. Your accountant will be able to assist you with the best choices for your situation.

**Important note:** Any advice in this article has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation and needs. Before acting on this advice you should consider its appropriateness to you and seek professional advice.

### Answers to Soil Quiz:

1. D. Salts build up when water drains away or evaporates and creates a saline soil.
2. C. Sulphur is an acid forming soil amendment.
3. B. Nitrification of ammonium is an acid-forming reaction.
4. A. The white crust comes from too many soluble salts in the soil solution.
5. B. Limestone raises the base saturation and consequently soil pH.
6. A. Calcium usually dominates on the exchange sites of soils with a near-neutral pH.



Its time to meet  
Kathleen...

### Staff Profile...

Kathleen Moffatt is the Branch Manager of our Miles store. Prior to joining NFW, Kathleen was with Elite Ag. Previous experience includes transport, farming and grazing. With her family, she owns and operates a livestock transport business in Miles. Kathleen loves spending time with her family, waterskiing, camp drafting, photography and chasing bulls down main streets!



If you would like to speak to Kathleen about any of your farming needs you can call her on 07 4627 1076 or 0427 545 302 or email her at [kathleen.moffatt@nfw.com.au](mailto:kathleen.moffatt@nfw.com.au).

# 'No Farming Worries'