

PROJECT: FFC00011-A: Regionally specific agronomy projects (RSAP): Early seeding trials for the Kwinana West port zone

BIOS:

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Agronomist with ConsultAg based out of Northam, working with growers through the central wheatbelt. Brad grew up on his family farm in Kukerin. He worked on the family farm for four years and has now completed a Bachelor of Agribusiness at Curtin University. Brad is very passionate, practical and analytical about Agriculture and is enjoying being part of the ConsultAg Team. Brad Joyce provides Advice under Farm Focus Consultants Pty Ltd.

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Technical consultant based in Dongara, working with growers through the central and northern wheatbelt.

- 9 years Dept Agric Adviser
- 2 years Elders Regional Regional Agronomist
- 12 years Technical Farm Consultant

Over 30 years' experience as a technical farm consultant and is focussed on multiple enterprises in farm management. He has excellent communication skills one on one and in groups as reflected by his receiving the GRDC "seed of light" award in 2011 for extension and communication to agriculture. Geoff has a passion for finding the cause of problems rather than treating just the symptoms through research, development and extension. He then incorporates this into farm programs to achieve a client's business and family goals.

TRIAL PROGRESS:

The trial has been completed with the Kellerberrin and Coorow trials being harvested, grain samples analysed and tiny tag temperature data collected off all the Mace treatments through the trial. The trials went as planned, however the frost events throughout August and September had an impact on the results in both locations. These frost events influenced the results and must be taken into consideration when interpreting the data.

KEY POINTS:

- Frost played a significant role in reducing yields through both locations. Each time of sowing had a frost event that occurred during the critical flowering times.
- Oats showed their ability to tolerate frost, yielding well when sown early April in both locations. Early April sown barley at Kellerberrin out yielded wheat while at Coorow wheat out yielded the barley. The early April sown barley did suffer from some shedding prior to harvest at Coorow which may explain the difference between Kellerberrin and Coorow.
- These trials indicate if an opportunity to germinate cereal occurs in early April then a long season Oat was best. If an opportunity to germinate cereal occurs in the second half of April then a longer season barley was best. If an opportunity to germinate cereal in early May occurs then a mid-season barley was best.
- Having varieties and cereal types available with a longer maturity length is critical if an early sowing opportunity presents. This is particularly critical in medium to low rainfall zones as it is important to make use of any early breaks to ensure good crop establishment and highest potential yields. Having multiple varieties and cereal types with different maturity lengths stored on farm ensures maximum yields can be achieved whilst increasing the sowing window farmers can utilise.

FURTHER WORK REQUIRED

Further work may be required when other early sowing opportunities present themselves to investigate different varieties growers have at their disposal.

PHOTOS:

Pic 1 – Kellerberrin April 7th sown Flinders on the left and Scope on the right. Picture taken on the 29th of September



Pic 2 –: Coorow - April 12 sown Magenta (right) Vs April 24 sown Magenta (left). Picture taken August 22nd 2016.

