

Project: Northern Agri Group Time of Sowing Trial (NAG00003-A)

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- Grain grower 20km north of Northampton,
- Outgoing Chairman of the Northern Agri Group,
- Previously worked with Planfarm and Elders in Agronomic roles,
- Studied at UWA Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

Trial Background: Is the Mace Monoculture the only way?

- Early seeding wheat is potentially becoming too early with warm winter growth in the north.
- NVT important BUT gives a snapshot of varieties at one Time of Sowing (TOS) only.
- To understand the Genetic diversity currently available and varieties ability to handle warm winters and earlier TOS.
- 2015 saw early May sown Mace flowering in mid-June due to high soil moisture and warm autumn temperatures.

Trial Report Card: 2016 was the coolest winter in the Northern Ag Region in over 20 years!

- A Deep Yellow sandplain soil next to the Binu weather station was the chosen site
- The trial aim was for a late April first TOS however we could only get a germination on the 9th May from a thunderstorm rain for our first TOS.
- The second TOS was the 6th June, which is typically late sowing for this area.
- 2016 was a very cool winter with below average rainfall at this site.
- 2016 was the coolest finish in over 20 Years which resulted in excellent yields for both TOS.

Key Points: Hydra, Scepter, Cobra, Magenta and Corack were the top 5 yielding varieties.

- The average yield difference from May to June sowing was 0.65t/ha. Which equated to 30kg/ha/day for every day sowing was delayed
- In this trial Mace, Hydra and Cobra all showed large yield penalties to later sowing? On the other hand, Magenta Corack, and Scepter all showed small yield penalties to late sowing?
- Preliminary flowering data shows the varieties that performed well flowered and set seed much quicker than varieties that had higher yield penalties.
- Magenta and Cutlass could produce good yields at both TOS compared with other long varieties of Bremer and Trojan. Scepter and Hydra were the standout Mid-season varieties for overall yield and TOS stability. Corack was the standout main stream short season option in this trial.
- Over 100 growers visited the site throughout the year with clear interest in more long term work on TOS covering different seasonal extremes. The full trial report will be available on line at Online Farm Trials Database.

Further Work Required: A 3 to 4 year look at variety performance is essential.

- Potential to irrigate the first TOS to allow a start date to be consistent for long term trial work in this area instead of waiting for the break of the season.
- Future work to focus on the early seeding data to gain an understanding of early season heat