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# Crop Updates - Performance in 1999 of recently released wheat varieties in Western Australia

## Performance in 1999 of recently released wheat varieties in Western Australia

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### Introduction

1999 was a record wheat production year in Western Australia. However widespread and early leaf rust affected the crops, as did stem rust in some areas. Rain at harvest caused problems in central and southern areas of the state. This resulted in some downgrading.

Strong adoption of the new varieties released from Agriculture Western Australia (AGWEST) occurred in 1999. About 68% of the wheat grown in Western Australia in 1999 was from varieties bred in Western Australia. Westonia and Arrino were each grown on about 10% of the area in 1999.

### Yield

The rate of genetic gain for yield in the past five years has ranged from 2% pa for APW to 1% pa for AH.

- ▶ Westonia, Brookton and Cunderdin recorded good yields in Western Australia in 1999 and were similar to the long-term performance.
- ▶ The yield performance of some recently released varieties sometimes differed to the long-term results.
- ▶ Some performed better than their long term average as a result of having some rust resistance. These were Carnamah, Camm, Nyabing and Calingiri.
- ▶ Although Arrino was adversely affected by the leaf rust, it still yielded better or similar to Eradu.
- ▶ Ajana was not up to its previous very high yields probably because of leaf rust.

### Rust

Some adjustment of rust rating of varieties was necessary in the light of experiences in the 1999 season.

- ▶ Prior to this season Arrino was thought to be moderately susceptible to leaf rust, but was clearly susceptible.
- ▶ Westonia, Arrino and Calingiri must be regarded as susceptible to stem rust.
- ▶ Calingiri proved to be more resistant to leaf rust than previous data had indicated.

Given the summer rainfall we have experienced, growers should ensure that they have sufficient rust resistant varieties in their program, or provision for fungicide sprays. It should be noted that the varieties Carnamah, Cunderdin and Perenjori are now able to be traded freely farmer to farmer. This should help in the availability of rust resistant wheats for 2000.

### Sprouting

Westonia and Carnamah appear to be more susceptible to sprouting based on grower experience in the 1999 harvest, very much protracted by unseasonal rain. They join Brookton and Cunderdin that were identified in 1998. This tendency to sprout may limit the use of these varieties.

**GRDC Project No.:** DAW 516 and SAW 499

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