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Crop Updates - Performance in 1998 of recently released wheat varieties

Performance in 1998 of recently released wheat varieties

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The following impressions are based on preliminary results and grower feedback. Screenings have generally been low in 1998, but frost effects as well as the unseasonal summer rain effects have given concern especially in the southern areas. The yield performance in 1998 has been consistent with the longer term. However the effects of frost and rain prior to harvest have been unusual. We need to interpret the varieties response to these events in terms of the likelihood of long term occurrence.

Ajana and Westonia have yielded well generally - except where early maturing varieties such as Westonia were frost affected. Grower experience has confirmed the low black point status of Ajana. You are reminded that Ajana is very susceptible to leaf rust. Further samples of Ajana will be submitted to the National Wheat Quality Evaluation program to provide the basis of review of its classification. Westonia has yielded very well in SA in 1998.

The noodle wheats, **Arrino and Calingiri have both yielded well.**

Carnamah has already been grown on 5% of the area in 1998. The yield performance in 1998 has confirmed it is the **highest yielding Australian Hard variety**. Grower experience has been generally favourable.

Camm, the triple rust resistant Spear type, has performed as expected being similar to Stiletto and Spear in yield. It is accepted into APW in WA, SA and Victoria. There is a lot of interest in it in SA.

Cascades has had a new lease on life with it coming off royalties.

Some **grower experience** has shown **Brookton and Cunderdin to be more prone to sprouting** than other varieties. This was not apparent in the pre-release testing - limited because we do not regularly experience rain at harvest.

These varieties however have usually been downgraded because of fungal mould rather than low falling number. Indeed in the trials where rain has been recorded prior to harvest, Brookton and Cunderdin have given good falling numbers. The **mould is quite different to black point** (Brookton is very good for black point), and we suspect there has been mild tissue damage due to frost that has allowed these fungi to grow on the surface. This is supported by the fact that the heads and straw have also been discoloured. Areas where frost has not generally been considered a major problem may still have experienced the conditions to cause this problem. It is not known why these varieties exhibit the problem more than others.

Both varieties have yielded very well.

Growers will need to assess the likelihood of rain at harvest as to whether they can grow these varieties.

We are addressing how we can get a better screen of potential varieties in terms of their response to sprouting.

Straw break has been experienced in **Cunderdin** in the Newdegate area and tissue tests have pointed to **low levels of copper and potassium**. Rating of breeding trials at Newdegate showed

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Brookton to also be affected. It is suspected that Cunderdin is particularly sensitive to low copper levels.

Kalannie has given good performance in the north east.

Perenjori also has given solid performance. Some growers have experienced difficulty in threshing Perenjori. **An easy threshing reselection has been tested** against Perenjori in Stage 3 trials in 1998 and it **looks promising** to provide an alternative for this variety.

Nyabing represents an alternative to Brookton in southern areas if growers decide Brookton is too risky. Camm and Cascades also represent other conservative varieties that are **safe for sprouting, black point and the rusts** in the case of Nyabing and Camm. Nyabing has the best combination of resistance to stem and leaf rust and the two septoria diseases.

Krichauff has performed similarly to previous years in being **similar in yield to Spear**. It is presently ASW but is clearly **not a desired quality** for our export markets.

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