

PRESS RELEASE

Balancing the weed control mix

Livestock grazing, spraying and cultivation. They are all equally important in what Martin Wilkinson of Maro Creek sees as well balanced weed management. Martin, in partnership with brother-in-law Trevor Beare, manages the Bidgood family farm Maro Creek at Snowtown and says they are constantly vigilant in addressing the issue of herbicide resistance.

The property of Maro Creek supports a rotation of wheat, barley and medic pasture with an annual peak of 7,000 sheep and up to 200 head of cattle.

A scare about 15 years ago when they lost a couple of hundred sheep to Annual Ryegrass Toxicity changed the whole farming practice.

They went to a predominantly medic pasture, taking out the grasses as quickly as they could with a range of herbicides and heavy sheep grazing.

The aim has been for the sheep to mop up any grasses that escape the other control methods and Martin says these days the general grass population is very low.

Nevertheless, even small Annual Ryegrass populations can punish the crop and Martin has started using LOGRAN[®] B POWER for selective residual Ryegrass control in his wheat.

He says he finds LOGRAN B POWER gives better Ryegrass control than LOGRAN and this has been a major incentive for changing products.

LOGRAN B POWER is traditional LOGRAN with added butafenacil. The butafenacil component boosts the knockdown capability of glyphosate and SPRAY.SEED, over a wide range of grasses and broadleaf weeds.

It also enhances the early residual power of LOGRAN.

Establishing their wheat crop is achieved by cultivating their medic country with 20 cm shears on 18 cm spacings for a complete cut.

Once finished with grazing old medic pastures will be cultivated at any time after February, depending on timely rainfall prior to the opening rains in May

“We get a complete cut, so we’re not relying just on chemicals for our weed control,” Martin says.

“We haven’t gone to narrow shears, we are trying to mix it up and use chemicals as well as cultivation as well as stock for controlling weeds.

“At the moment in the wheat, we go in and open up and cultivate the paddock which is then ready for an application of zinc and LOGRAN B POWER.

“The aim is to get that operation out of the way before we want to sow and then if necessary, a knockdown will be used prior to sowing.

“The Zinc can affect the glyphosate, so we spray the glyphosate separately.

“We find we can get better Ryegrass control with the LOGRAN B POWER. And that hopefully lets us avoid another chemical application later in the year.

“We’ve been very happy with LOGRAN B POWER. The only time we have to go back over paddocks is occasionally for some Brome Grass and Wild Oats

“But really, we rarely go back over a paddock of wheat with a boom spray during the growing season.

“LOGRAN B POWER’s very good on the medic, Capeweed, Turnip, Mustard and Ryegrass.

“At the moment we haven’t found or seen any resistance.

“We had three Ryegrass samples tested last year for resistance and they all came back negative to all the chemicals so we’ll keep working at it.”

Martin said he uses trifluralin as his main Ryegrass controller in his barley.

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