

Keeping the grass weeds at bay early in the season pays off

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Stan Noonan, Syngenta Sales Representative based out of Dubbo with grower, Gary Weston at his property at Curban, NSW.

Curban grower Gary Weston says after good crops last season, he is looking forward to the year ahead.

Cropping around 4000 hectares each year in total, with half going to wheat and barley, and the rest divided into canola, chick peas, lupins and faba beans, Gary says over the past couple of years, wheat has outperformed the barley.

“Last year we got good cereal rains - although too much for our chickpeas - our wheat went 4.5 tonne per hectare and the barley went 4 tonne.”

Gary says Annual Ryegrass (ARG) is a constant issue for both wheat and barley and for the past three years he has applied BOXER GOLD® as a pre-emergent herbicide to control early germinating ARG.

“We started using it when we realised we had a real grass weed problem and needed some big guns,” says Gary.

“We will be using BOXER GOLD on our barley paddocks again this year.”

“I’ll mix it in-tank so we get that broader weed spectrum where we are sowing with a tyned sowing rig.”

“We’ve always found the BOXER GOLD easy to mix and apply, even though we need to need to

handle a high volume each load to get a good spread per hectare,” he says.

BOXER GOLD, from Syngenta, is the most effective pre-emergent treatment for ARG. Developed for Australian conditions and Australian farmers, it offers flexible application with seven-day incorporation, residual control and no plant-back restrictions, so rotational crop strategies can be fully utilised.

Gary says that as well as its strong performance on grass weeds, BOXER GOLD offers him flexibility in being able to apply it to suit his cropping program.

“We always sow our cereals around 40 to 50 mm deep, even with the disc seeder, to avoid having seed in the top profile which dries out just as the crop is emerging.”

“This strategy works well with pre-emergent treatments as we can keep the germinating seed well away from the chemical.”

“The key to using a pre-emergent is that I know we may have to use a follow-up post-emergent spray in some years to control any escapes that germinate under a clod.”

“But each time we get the pre-emergent right, we generally negate the need for a mop-up spray.”

“We’re always happy with the consistency of the product and the clean crops,” says Gary.

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