

## Choosing the right fungicide

CHOOSING a fungicide involves selecting a product that is designed for the task and then weighing the price, brand name and quality. Brand names are good in the retail game but farmers who seldom look beyond the brand name when making a decision should remember that 4Farmers has been marketing farm chemicals in WA for 10 years and it has a proven track record of supplying quality products.

And the product should also be chosen with care, as 4Farmers Flutriafol, when used in-furrow to protect cereal crops against various fungal diseases, will do much the same job as Triadimefon, but at three times the cost.

However, Flutriafol is the product to

use in-furrow when planting canola, because it is able to control Blackleg, a major disease in canola that can attack the young seedlings, even from resistant varieties.

Price is also important, with Triadimefon now providing in-furrow protection for cereals for less than \$5/ha, a treatment that also controls Take-All, an important consideration when growing wheat on wheat, especially using no-till.

Even at current prices, it only requires an extra 30kg/ha to cover the cost of in-furrow treatment with 4Farmers Triadimefon, a very attractive piece of insurance.



*A top canola crop like this requires a good start, including an in-furrow treatment of Flutriafol to control Blackleg and other fungal diseases*

## Weed size does make a difference

MOST of the agricultural areas have received rain over the last week or so, most receiving good falls, some too much and there are bound to be some who received too little.

For those who practise minimum or no till, a late March rain brings with it the conundrum about the best time to spray, as farmers juggle the options based on the weed growth, the calendar and stock feed.

Glyphosate can be applied very close to seeding, but with the early rain a better option would be to spray the weeds 10 days before seeding instead of the day before. This gives the plants time to die, which in turn will loosen up the soil as the roots wither.

Modern knock-down herbicides are quite capable of achieving a kill on more mature plants, but they are unlikely to handle the bigger plants at a rate designed for emerging seedlings.

As an example, the amount of Glyphosate needed to control 10 day old weeds needs to be increased by 20% when the weeds are 20 days old, with the later date posing the question of whether enough spray is on hand to complete the programme.

An early break could well result in an increased demand for knock-down herbicides, so a call to your local 4Farmers agent may be timely.

### A THOUGHT FROM e.anon.

*"I know that age is just a number, but mine's unlisted."*

*Technical information can be obtained from 4Farmers agents or from Terry Piper, Chief Agronomist, 4Farmers, Welshpool. Phone 9356 3445.*

## 4Farmers Pty Ltd

Suppliers of agricultural chemicals to protect your crops and animals.

Free Call 1800 038 445, Ph: (08) 9356 3445 Fax (08) 9356 3447

1/70 McDowell St, Welshpool, WA 6106

Web Site: [www.4farmers.com.au](http://www.4farmers.com.au)



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## More Trifluralin

IT can sometimes be difficult juggling the requirements of a QA programme with changing circumstances, particularly when it comes to the rate of application of various farm chemicals.

Farmers who wish to apply heavier rates of 4Farmers Trifluralin need worry no more, because the registration of this product has now been changed to allow applications of up to 2L/ha.

## Watch your timing

UNLIKE the old days, modern herbicides make it possible to plant crops early, with later weeds being handled efficiently by follow-up applications of the relevant herbicides.

But 4Farmers Agronomist, Dr Terry Piper, has cautioned farmers against seeding too early following the recent rains, even though it is a very tempting proposition.

A prolonged dry period before the next decent rain can cause one set of problems, but good follow-up rains and an early season also carries the risk of crops maturing during the vulnerable spring frosts period.

"Farmers know their own paddocks and their own area, but recent experience has shown that frost can devastate the yields of great looking crops, so add the possibility of frost into your management equation" was Terry's advice.