

Early crops and early insect pests

EARLY crops, particularly canola or lupins, have been sown in many places with the Easter rains and, although they are looking pretty good at the moment, reports of insect pests indicate that even during seeding, it will pay to knock off to check them.

Balaustium and clover (Bryobia) mites have been reported in areas as widespread as Kukerin and Mt Madden, Lucerne fleas and clover mites have

been seen East of Merredin, while RLEM are starting to be seen after their long summer.

Reports of insect pests at Northampton, Kalannie and Esperance provide a pretty wide coverage of the state, enough to encourage the farmers in between to check early crops.

4Farmers agents can provide a wide range of insecticides at competitive prices. Ring yours soon.



Early canola crops could well be hosts to early insect pests, so even during seeding, it will pay to check them regularly.

Some weeds are a long time dying

SOME farmers who were fortunate enough to receive some of the early rain may now consider themselves amongst the unfortunate ones, because they now have some very large weeds in their cropping paddocks.

Glyphosate at an appropriate rate will kill even large capweeds, but they take a long time to die and the decomposing plant material can have a very bad effect on the germination rate of the cereal.

In these circumstances, it is best to leave the sprayed paddock for at least 24 hours to allow the herbicide to move through the plant before seeding. If a no-till regime with knife points is being

used, it is then OK to seed the crop and allow it to germinate while the weeds are dying on the surface.

However, full cut points will bury the green plant material and cause germination problems with the cereal being seeded. If this type of ground tool must be used, the paddock should be sprayed with an appropriate rate for the size of the weeds, then the paddock should be heavily grazed with a very heavy stocking rate to remove the plant material.

So, if you have some very large weeds in a cropping paddock, a talk to your 4Farmers agent could be a good way to start.

Big weeds and pre-emergents

IF PRE-EMERGENT herbicides such as the SUs or Trifluralin are to be used, the size of the weeds is critical as the spray needs to hit the soil, not the leaves of a large plant.

The chances of success are not good enough to warrant the

expense of mixing these sprays with a knockdown if large weeds are present, so the SU's should be left in the shed until the knockdown spray has worked.

The test is simple; if you can't see the ground for the weeds, then don't apply the SU sprays.

No mushrooms?

WHEN 4Farmers slashed the price of the fungicide Triadimefon from \$1160 to \$170 for the same quantity, they made treating the fertilizer an affordable option, which has allowed farmers to view the practice as insurance, rather than an expensive cure.

But some farmers have wondered if the use of so much fungicide has affected the supply of that highly acceptable fungus, the humble mushroom.

"Highly unlikely" was the verdict from Terry Piper, in-house agronomist and committed gourmand, who explained that Triadimefon was very specific to its targeted range of fungal diseases.

Mushrooms are an entirely different type of fungus as they are saprophytes, living off dead hosts, whereas the fungi attacked by Triadimefon are classified as parasites because they live on live hosts. In lawns, Triadimefon controls many diseases, but not fungi producing "fairy ring" mushrooms.

A THOUGHT FROM e.anon.

"Any bank will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it."

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



4 FARMERS,
FOR FARMERS

www.4farmers.com.au

Same address, but a new, re-jigged web site that can supply details on all the products marketed by 4Farmers, information needed for Quality Assurance programmes and MSDS sheets.

If you still prefer a real person, you can ring your local agent or contact Terry Piper, Product Support at 4Farmers, Welshpool on 08 9365 3445.