F6. Sowing Date, LRZ Upper Eyre Peninsula (Minnipa), South Australia

Aim

To maximise yield of new field pea varieties through the identification of optimum sowing dates.

Treatments

Varieties: Kaspa, Alma, PBA Gunyah, PBA Twilight, OZP0703, OZP0903
Sowing dates: 27 May (Early), 11 June (Late)
Fertiliser: Map + Zn @ 75kg/ha

Results and Interpretation

Yield of early sown peas was not affected by disease in 2010, and the soft finish to the season did not penalise yield of later sown peas. Consequently, there was no yield difference between sowing dates in this trial. This is a very different result to that found from previous experiments at Minnipa where a yield penalty of 26/kg/day occurred as sowing was delayed. Significant variety differences were apparent (Table F6.1). OZP0903 yielded higher than all other varieties (3.3 t/ha), and 13% higher than Kaspa. OZP0903, Kaspa and OZP0703 all yielded higher than Parafield. 2010 releases PBA Gunyah and PBA Twilight performed similarly to Kaspa, along with the bacterial blight resistant OZP0703, an anticipated 2011 release.

Table F6.1. Grain yields of six varieties in a sowing date trial at Minnipa, 2010.

Line	Kaspa	Parafield	PBA Gunyah	PBA Twilight	OZP0703	OZP0903	LSD (P>0.05)
Yield t/ha	2.90	2.61	2.78	2.75	2.88	3.29	0.25

Key Findings and Comments

Since soil moisture was not limiting, and a soft finish to the season was observed, sowing date trials at Minnipa in 2010 showed no differences in yield between early and late sowing dates under these conditions. However, early sowing is still generally recommended in low rainfall regions provided that optimal management of blackspot, frost and weed risks are considered.