

F7 Crop Topping, LRZ Southern Mallee (Curyo), Victoria

Aim

To investigate the suitability of a range of field pea varieties differing in flowering and maturity characteristics for crop-topping/desiccation.

Treatments

Varieties: Kaspas, Morgan, PBA Oura, OZP0805, OZP0819, PBA Percy, PBA Gunyah, PBA Twilight, Sturt, PSL4Early.

Crop Topping: Nil
Early: Applied approximately 10-14 days pre rye grass milky dough stage (24th October)
Mid: Applied at rye grass milky dough (4th November)
Late: Applied approximately 10-14 days post rye grass milky dough stage (14th November)

Other Details

Sowing date: 4 May
Row Spacing/Stubble: 30 cm row spacing, inter-row, standing stubble.
Fertiliser: MAP + Zn @ 40 kg/ha at sowing
Plant Density: 120 plants/m²

Results and Interpretation

- Key Message: No significant response to crop topping treatments was observed.
- Mouse Damage – Damage from mice was observed across the trial and each plot was scored for damage on a percentage scale. Mouse damage was used as a covariate in the grain yield analysis.
- Grain Yield – No significant response to crop topping treatments was observed in 2011. Mean grain yields of varieties followed a similar pattern to the sowing time trial (F6). OZP0819 was significantly higher yielding than all varieties except Sturt and OZP0805 (Table F7.1).

Table F7.1. Mean grain yield (t/ha) of field pea varieties grown in the crop topping trial at Curyo in 2011.

| Variety | Grain Yield (t/ha) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| OZP0819 | 2.26 |
| Sturt | 2.13 |
| OZP0805 | 2.06 |
| Kaspas | 1.96 |
| PBAOuras | 1.93 |
| Morgan | 1.91 |
| PBA Percy | 1.60 |
| PSL4Early | 1.52 |
| PBA Twilight | 1.43 |
| PBA Gunyah | 1.28 |

lsd(P<0.05)Var = 0.29.

Key Findings and Comments

The new varieties OZP0819 and OZP0805 were among the highest average grain yields in this trial.