L11 Crop Topping, MRZ Wimmera (Rupanyup), Victoria

Aim

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

Treatments

Varieties:	Aldinga, Boomer, Nipper, Nugget, PBA Bounty, PBA Flash, PBA Blitz, PBA Jumbo, CIPAL0802, CIPAL0803.
Crop Topping:	Nil. Early: Applied approximately 10-14 days pre rye grass milky dough stage (14th November). Mid: Applied at rye grass milky dough (28th November). Late: Not applied.

Other Details

Sowing date:	16 May.
Row Spacing/Stubble:	30 cm row spacing, inter-row, standing stubble.
Fertiliser:	MAP + Zn @ 60 kg/ha at sowing.
Plant Density:	120 plants/m^2.

Results and Interpretation

- Key Message: No significant response to crop topping treatments was observed.

- Grain Yield – No significant response to crop topping treatments was observed in 2011. Mean grain yields of varieties were high ranging from 3.4 to 4.0t/ha (Table L11.1).

Table L11.1. Mean grain yield (t/ha) of lentil varieties grown in the crop topping trial at Rupanyup in 2011.

Variety	Grain Yield (t/ha)
PBA Flash	3.99
PBA Bounty	3.88
CIPAL0803	3.78
Nipper	3.74
Nugget	3.73
PBA Jumbo	3.70
CIPAL0802	3.64
Aldinga	3.53
Boomer	3.48
PBA Blitz	3.43

lsd(P<0.05)Var = 0.32.

Key Findings and Comments

Although not clearly demonstrated in this trial previous results at various sites across southern Australia have demonstrated that earlier maturing lines generally displayed less yield loss in crop-topping treatments than later maturing types.