

B10. Sowing Time x Fungicide regime, HMRZ (Wagga Wagga), NSW

Aim

To test the yield response of four faba bean varieties across 2 sowing times (TOS) in southern NSW. The information from this trial will be used to improve current grower recommendations for sowing time, variety selections and plant population.

Treatments

Varieties:	Farah, PBA Rana, AF5069 and PBA Nura.
Sowing dates:	17th May and 19 th June 2012
Plant populations:	Targeted 15, 30 & 45 plants/m ² .
Row Spacing/Stubble:	30 cm into standing light stubble.
Fertiliser:	Legume Starter @ 115 kg/ha at sowing.
Fungicides:	For chocolate spot. Bavistan 27 th June, and Bravo [®] + Howzat foliar fungicides on 25 th July, 25 th September, Prosaro 25 th September.
Plot size:	12 m x 1.6 m, three replicates

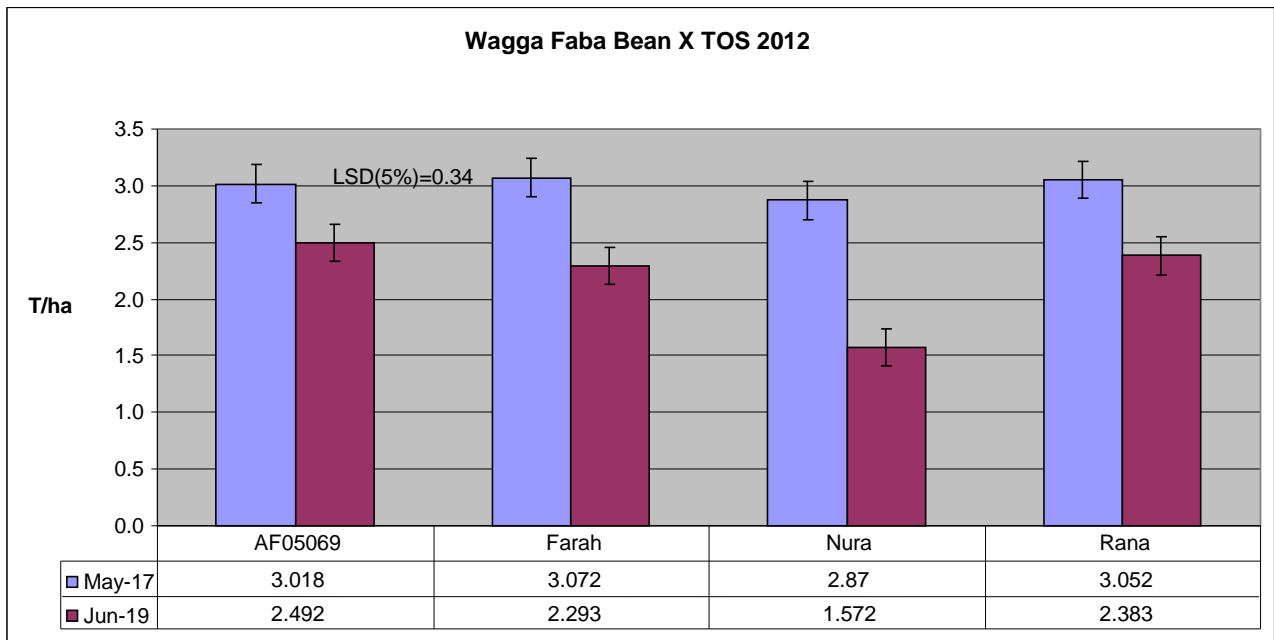
Results and Interpretations:

2012 season was characterised by above average summer rainfall and below average in crop rainfall. As a result crops were reliant on stored soil moisture for much of the growth period with near average August rainfall facilitating early spring growth which produced sufficient crop biomass to produce economically viable yields. The dry winter growth period reduced the incidence of foliar diseases.

The original intent of this trial was to evaluate four new faba lines, at April and May sowing times. Timing of sowing rains dictated an early May/ early June comparison. Three fungicide treatments were imposed on the trial, spray as needed with Bravo + Howzat, Impact only on fertiliser and Impact plus a late Prosaro foliar spray.

Disease pressure was low throughout 2012 and there was no significant interaction with fungicide applications. Fungicides are more effectively used as a protectant than as a cure to infection.

Sowing time significantly affected Faba Bean yields. On average, yield declined by 24kg/day with a 34 day sowing delay. Early sowing, (May) established a mean yield of 3.0 t/ha; and the later sowing (June) had a mean yield of 2.18t/ha.



Impact®In-Furrow is a product that is related to one of the foliar treatments and is registered as a seed-dressing for many other crop species. There is clearly merit in evaluating the potential for this product to protect faba seedlings.

Impact®In-Furrow was used as a stand-alone treatment and as part of the third regime in conjunction with a foliar application. In a “normal” season there is an expectation that the data from the three regimes may produce a yield variance that validates the merit of the Impact®In-Furrow seed-dressing.

Key Findings and Comments

- Delaying sowing reduced Faba bean yields by approximately 0.8t/ha.
- There was significant difference between varieties and with delayed sowing.
- There was little disease pressure.
- There was no significant yield difference between fungicide treatments.
- The merit of protecting faba seedlings with in furrow fungicide application requires further evaluation in a season with a wet winter.