C5. Sowing Date x Plant Population, LRZ (Yenda), 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

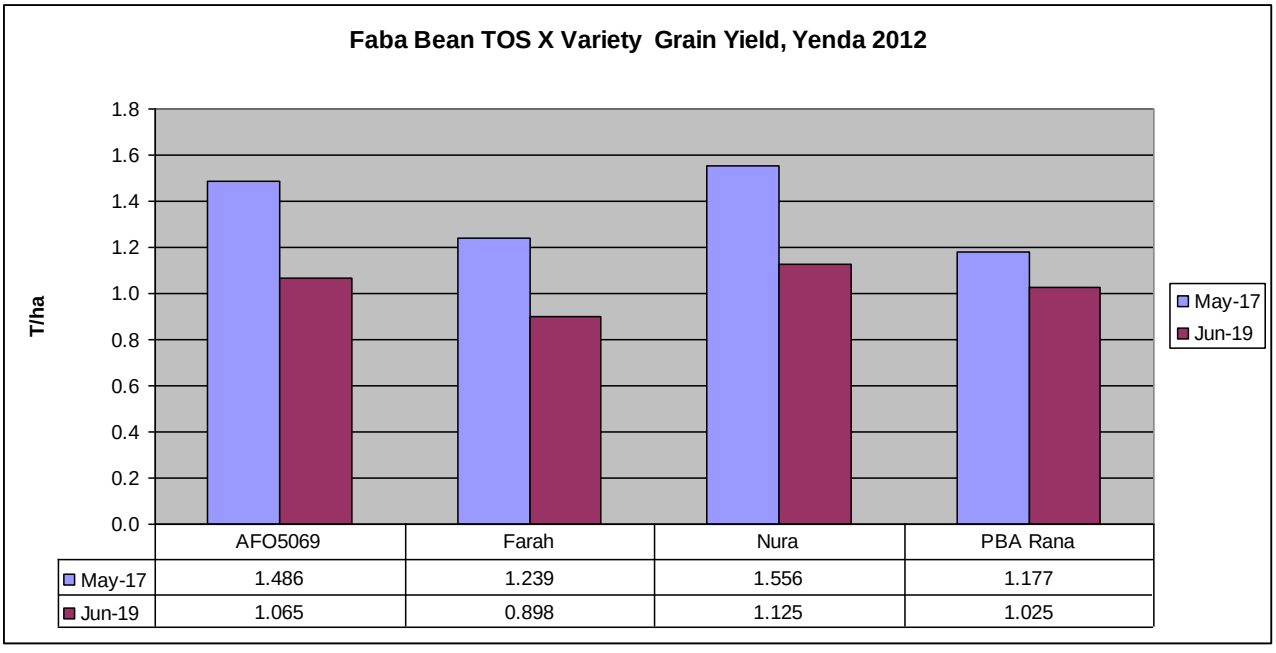
Varieties:	Farah, PBA Rana, AF5069 and PBA Nura.
Sowing dates:	17th May and 19th June 2012
Plant populations:	Targeted 15, 30 & 45 plants/m^2.
Row Spacing/Stubble:	30 cm into standing light stubble.
Fertiliser:	Legume Starter @ 115 kg/ha at sowing.
Plot size:	12 m x 1.6 m, three replicates

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. Disease pressure was low due to seasonal conditions, the levels of infection were below spray thresholds.

Sowing time significantly affected Faba Bean yields. On average, yield declined by 11kg/day with a 32 day sowing delay. Early sowing, (May) established a mean yield of 1.365 t/ha; and the later sowing (June) had a mean yield of 1.028t/ha.



	AFO5069	Farah	Nura	PBA Rana
May-17	1.486	1.239	1.556	1.177
Jun-19	1.065	0.898	1.125	1.025

Key Findings and Comments

- Sowing after the start of May resulted in a reduction in expected yields compared to previous seasons
- Delaying sowing reduced Faba bean yields by approximately 0.3t/ha
- There was significant difference between varieties and with delayed sowing
- PBA Nura was the best performed variety at both sowing dates
- There was little disease pressure.