

## **C4 Varieties, HRZ South West (Westmere), Victoria**

### **Aim**

To investigate the potential of new chickpea varieties in the high rainfall zone of Victoria.

### **Experimental Details**

Sowing date: 22 May.  
Stubble: Slashed.  
Row Spacing: 20 cm.  
Fertiliser: MAP @ 100 kg/ha at sowing.  
Plant Density: 120 plants/m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Results and Interpretation**

- Key Message: Chickpeas produced profitable yields in the HRZ, but production risks are high and crops such as faba beans, field peas and lupins remain a better option.
- Similar to lentils growth of chickpeas was generally slow and lacked vigour. In the HRZ, due to cold conditions, it is essential to sow lentils in early May to achieve some early growth and maximise potential biomass and yield. Yields ranged between 0.63 and 1.00 t/ha, which could provide returns of \$200-\$600/ha based on the 2014 grain prices. Production risks, particularly related to waterlogging and acidic soils are high and crops such as faba beans, field peas and lupins remain a better option.

Table 1. Grain yield (t/ha) of Chickpea varieties grown at Westmere, 2014 in comparison with 2013.

Variety	2014	2013
PBA Striker	0.80	2.35
Almaz	0.63	2.28
PBA Monarch	0.85	2.22
Kalkee	0.65	1.89
Genesis090	0.93	1.43
PBA Maiden	0.75	
Neelam	1.00	
PBA Slasher	0.85	1.27

Lsd( $P<0.10$ )<sub>2014</sub> – 0.24; Lsd( $P<0.05$ )<sub>2013</sub> – 0.78