

L7 Varieties, HRZ South West (Westmere), Victoria

Aim

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

Experimental Details

Sowing date: 22 May.
Stubble: Slashed.
Row Spacing: 20 cm.
Fertiliser: MAP @ 60 kg/ha at sowing.
Plant Density: 120 plants/m².

Results and Interpretation

- Key Message: Lentils again produced profitable yields in the HRZ, but production risks are high and crops such as Faba beans and Lupins remain a better option.
- Similar to previous seasons growth of lentils 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 0.93 and 1.54 t/ha, which could provide returns of more than \$1000/ha based on the 2014 grain prices at \$850/t (fixed management costs of \$230/ha). Production risks, particularly related to waterlogging and acidic soils are high and crops such as Faba beans and Lupins remain a better option.

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

Variety	2014	2013
PBA Ace	1.54	1.82
CIPAL0901	1.51	
PBA HurricaneXT	1.37	
PBA Bolt	1.21	1.98
PBA Giant	1.21	1.78
CIPAL0715	1.15	
Nugget	1.13	1.85
Nipper	0.93	1.50
PBA Blitz		1.54

Lsd($P<0.10$)₂₀₁₄ – 0.40; Lsd($P<0.05$)₂₀₁₃ – ns