

# Trial 13

## Natrakelp Fertiliser Trial on wheat, barley, chickpeas and fieldpeas

Organic fertilisers derived from fish or seaweed material are marketed as seed dressings or foliar sprays. The organic fertilisers are claimed to increase crop growth and grain yield, through the supply or activation of mineral nutrients, or by providing plant hormones or other biologically active molecules which stimulate plant growth. Products of organic origin are often disclaimed by agricultural scientists, however many farmers are interested in these products. A duplicated trial was instigated to test whether Natrakelp, as a seaweed concentrate, is a material of value in broadacre cereal and grain legume production.

Natrakelp was applied on the 15th of August when the cereals were in the mid-tillering stage and the chick and field peas in the two to four node stage.

Natrakelp Pty Ltd in Maroochydore (phone 074 455054) provided the seaweed fertiliser.

### Results:

	<b>Chickpeas t/ha</b>	<b>Field peas t/ha</b>	<b>Barley t/ha (protein)</b>	<b>Wheat t/ha (protein)</b>
<b>5 L</b>	2.00	1.39	1.48 (9.7)	2.36 (10.0)
<b>10 L</b>	2.08	2.13	1.71 (9.4)	2.01 (10.1)
<b>control</b>	1.94	2.18	1.69 (9.4)	2.15 (10.0)
<b>5 L</b>	2.08	1.23	1.69	1.62
<b>10 L</b>	2.04	1.27	1.60	1.64

**Interpretation:** Natrakelp applied to the foliage showed no yield advantage in any of the crop types.

**Commercial Practice:** at this stage this product needs further evaluation before it is widely used