

Trial 11

Chickpea Seed Dressing Trial and Foliar Spray Demonstration Sponsored by M & P Jolly Pty Ltd

Seed Dressings

Aim: to determine whether seed dressings are useful in suppressing disease and increasing yield in desi (Desavic) and kabuli (Kaniva) type chickpeas (NOTE: this site has not had chickpeas before therefore expected disease levels were low)

Method: seed dressings used were Apron (metalaxyl), Thiram (thiram), P Pickle T (thiabendazole + thiram) and Raxil (tebuconazole)

Results:

Seed dressing	yield (t/ha)	
	Desavic (desi)	Kaniva (kabuli)
Control	1.94	1.59
Apron	2.02	1.67
Thiram	1.84	1.65
P Pickle T	1.71	1.57
Raxil	1.85	1.84
Significant difference	P<0.05 LSD=0.19	NS

Interpretation: there was a small but significant yield penalty for desi chickpeas treated with P Pickle T (compared to the nil treatment - the control). Why this may have been the case is not known. For the kabuli chickpeas there were no differences in yield resulting from the different seed treatments.

Industry practice: chickpeas sown into 'new' chickpea paddocks generally do not need seed treatment. Paddocks with a history of chickpeas may benefit from seed treatments which suppress diseases such as damping off (especially in kabuli types), grey mould and the root rots (ie. phoma). These diseases are especially prevalent in wet seasons and seed treatments will assist with suppressing these diseases for some weeks.

Foliar Spray Demonstration:

A demonstration of foliar spraying fungicides was held adjacent to the seed treatment plots. Benlate, Polyram and a nil treatment (control) were compared. At the time of spraying (late September) there was evidence of a low level infection of botrytis (grey mould) on the chickpeas. However, there were no real differences in yield between the treatments on Desavic (average yield 1.6 t/ha) and Kaniva (average yield 1.85 t/ha). The dry finish to the season in 1996 would have suppressed the outbreak of Botrytis.