

Lentil Sowing Rate and Time of Sowing

Summary: The optimum sowing time for lentils in the southern Mallee is mid May. The current recommendation for a sowing rate of 50kg/ha should be followed.

Aims: To determine the optimum sowing rate and time of sowing for Digger lentils in the Southern Mallee.

Methods: Digger lentils were sown on three dates (May 16, June 3 and July 11) at three rates (30, 50 and 70kg/ha).

Results:

Sowing Date	Rate (kg/ha)	Yield (t/ha)
May	30	0.29
May	50	0.24
May	70	0.25
June	30	0.21
June	50	0.22
June	70	0.16

Note: the July sowing failed.

There was a significant effect of sowing date ($P < 0.01$) but not of sowing rate.

Interpretation: The earlier sowing date (May) proved beneficial, the latest sowing date (July) failed. There was no difference in yield with sowing rate.

Commercial Practice: Mid May sowing in the Southern Mallee is the optimum sowing time for lentils. At this stage the 50kg/ha recommendation should be followed.