

Stubble Preparation Demonstration

Summary: Barley (variety Yagan) was sown into a standing, slashed or burnt wheat stubble. The barley performed best where the stubble had been burnt, and least where the stubble had been slashed. Although leaf diseases such as yellow leaf spot were not evident it is not good practice to sow barley into a wheat stubble, especially if the stubble is thick (as occurred here when it was slashed).

Aim: To investigate the effects of sowing barley and peas into a wheat stubble (standing, slashed and burnt).

Methods: On June 25, Yagan (short season barley from WA) and Dundale Field Peas were sown into wheat stubble which was left standing, slashed or had been burnt. Two row spacings for the barley were investigated (17 and 34 cm, or 7 and 14").

Results:

| Stubble | Yield (t/ha) | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Barley 7" spacing | Barley 14" spacing | Field Pea |
| left standing | 1.53 | 0.78 | 0.15 |
| slashed | 0.97 | 0.35 | 0.22 |
| burnt | 1.72 | 1.44 | 0.16 |

Interpretation: The barley performed best where the wheat stubble had been burnt. Where the stubble was left standing the yields were better compared to where it was slashed. This is probably due to difficulties that cereal seedlings have in getting through thick stubble. In addition, at sowing the seeder blocked with the 7 inch spacing, whilst sowing the standing stubble, and dragged a large proportion of the stubble of the plot. The barley on burnt stubble performed the best. The barley performed much better on the narrow row spacing (7"). Field Peas were frosted and yields were very low.

Commercial Practice: in wet years barley sown into cereal stubble can suffer badly from yellow leaf spot. In dry years, such as 1997, this is not such a problem. However, the barley still performed better where the wheat stubble had been burnt.