

Broadcasting as a sowing method

SUMMARY

The yield of broadcast wheat was slightly compared to sown wheat, however if the cost of sowing is considered then broadcasting wheat may be an economic option.

The aim was to compare broadcasting as a sowing method with the conventional method of sowing

METHOD

Frame wheat was sown on May 18, either broadcast or sown, at two sowing rates (80 and 100kg/ha). The broadcast treatment was cultivated following spreading the seed.

RESULTS

Table 1. Results from broadcasting trial at Sea Lake

Sowing method Sowing rate (kg/ha)	Yield (t/ha)		Protein (%)		Screenings (%)	
	Broadcast	Sown	Broadcast	Sown	Broadcast	Sown
80	2.32	2.43	10.5	9.9	1.9	3.2
100	2.22	2.58	10.1	10.0	2.4	3.0
Significant difference:	P<0.05 LSD=0.2		NS		P<0.05 LSD=0.8	

Table 2. Results from broadcasting demonstration at Birchip

Sowing method	Input system	Shade cloth	Yield (t/ha)	Protein (%)	Screenings (%)
broadcast	low	none	2.27	12.0	2.0
broadcast	high	none	2.12	14.8	0
sown	low	none	2.32	13.3	0.5
sown	high	none	2.44	14.3	0

INTERPRETATION

SEA LAKE

There was a small difference in yield (2.3 and 2.5 t/ha) and screenings (2.1 and 3.1 %) between broadcast and sown wheat. If the time and costs incurred in sowing are compared to broadcasting in relation to the yields achieved it is more cost effective to broadcast then to sow. The BCG will continue work in this area in 2001.

BIRCHIP

No difference in yield between broadcast sowing at 100 kg/ha compared to conventional sowing at 80 kg/ha. There is a significant cost saving with broadcast sowing compared to sowing through a seed drill.