

Competitiveness of lentils

The aim was to identify best management practices for the production of red lentils.

METHOD

Northfield and Digger lentils were sown at: (i) 50 and 100 kg/ha; and (ii) at 18 and 36 cm row width (7 and 14" rows). The lentils were sown into a standing barley stubble on May 9, with Mallee Mix 1 at 80 kg/ha. All treatments were replicated.

RESULTS

Sowing rate kg/ha	Digger		Northfield	
	50	100	50	100
18cm rows	0.61	0.57	0.66	0.51
36cm rows	0.62	0.44	0.59	0.51
Significant difference: variety row spacing sowing rate	NS NS P=0.05, LSD=0.12			

INTERPRETATION

Variety: there was no difference between the yield of Digger and Northfield (0.56 vs 0.57 t/ha respectively)

Row spacing: there was no significant difference in the yield of lentils sown at 18 cm (7") or 36 cm (14") (0.59 vs 0.54 t/ha respectively). However, the crop sown at 18cm (7") was much easier to harvest and stood up better.

Sowing rate: there was a significant negative effect of sowing rate on yield - the 50kg sowing rate had the higher yield compared to the 100kg/ha sowing rate (0.62 vs 0.51 t/ha respectively).