

EzyZinc demonstration in Gairdner barley



The aim of this demonstration was to demonstrate a range of zinc fertiliser products

Summary

Zinc should be applied every three to four years as part of the normal fertiliser program when cropping in the Mallee and Wimmera.

Background

Good Zinc (Zn) nutrition is essential for crop production in the Mallee and Wimmera. Mallee soils are typically alkaline in nature making Zn generally unavailable to plants. A relatively new product EzyZinc is on the market and the BCG-WFS undertook a number of demonstrations in Gairdner barley comparing four different techniques for applying Zinc.

Methods

Gairdner barley was sown at each site in demonstration plots with four different zinc fertiliser strategies. Weed and disease control followed normal practice.

Results

There were no large differences in yield between MAP (no Zinc) and three different fertiliser strategies with Zinc (Table 1). It indicates that Zinc nutrition was adequate at all three sites.

Table 1. Zinc fertiliser demonstration on Gairdner barley yields at three sites in 2003.

Product	Rate /ha	Birchip Yield (t/ha)	Berri Yield (t/ha)	Murtoa Yield (t/ha)
MAP (Control)	60 kg	3.9	3.0	4.4
EzyZinc	60 kg	3.9	2.8	4.3
Mallee Mix 1	69 kg	3.9	2.9	4.0
MAP + foliar Zn at 5 leaf	60 kg + 2 L	4.0	2.9	3.9

Commercial Practice

Zinc nutrition is an essential component of good cropping practices in the Mallee and Wimmera. Paddocks should be sown every three to four years with a Zinc based fertiliser. Over the years of trial work with Zinc the BCG-WFS have not been able to demonstrate (including work with Zinc seed dressings) that there is a preferred method – the only common denominator is that Zinc is used regularly as part of the fertiliser program.

Table 2. Chemical analysis of common fertilisers.

Fertiliser	N %	P %	K %	S %	Zn %
EzyZinc	10	21.5	0	3.4	2.0
MalleeMix1	7.8	18.8	0	3.5	2.0
MAP	10	21.8	0	1.5	0