

# Weed Management

The main messages from the trial work undertaken in 2005 for management in 2006 include:

- The number one problem continues to be herbicide resistance. The number of cases where group A grass selective herbicides did not work increased again in 2005.

The work undertaken by the BCG and Hart Field Day Group (SA) indicates that for ryegrass management:

- reduce the number of ryegrass plants which germinate in your crops through good knockdown management and using trifluralin effectively (often with 'spikes' such as Avadex®, Dual Gold® or Glean®)
- reduce the potential for ryegrass to set seed in the paddock. Use all methods available to you to do this – these methods may be chemical (better herbicide options) or mechanical (such as hay). This manual contains a comprehensive management guide to reduce and keep ryegrass to manageable levels.
- Summer weed control was very important in the wet summer of 2004/05. Where summer weeds were controlled the benefits were large. The BCG summer weed control trial in Birchip showed that where weeds were controlled there was a massive 0.5 to 0.7t/ha (up to 30%) increase in yield. If we have another wet summer, control the weeds! The price of many herbicides used for summer spraying have come down significantly and it is worth doing.
- UAN was tested as a carrier for herbicides to see whether the product can increase the activity of the herbicide. At a BCG demonstration with UAN and Select and Aramo the benefit of using UAN was marked – the increased level of control was impressive and the BCG will continue to do more trial work on this in 2006.
- Nozzle selection continues to be of interest to farmers especially now that spray drift is talked about so often. The nozzle work undertaken by the BCG is of interest and all trial results over the last few years are discussed in this chapter.
- The spray drift demonstration at the BCG main site was not a great success in 2005, primarily because the demonstration was put in place to coincide with the field day rather than choosing the time of the year when spray drift is a problem. In 2006, the spray drift trial will be set up in autumn when drift with knockdown sprays can be a problem.