

# Summer Weed Control Demonstration

**Aim:** To assess the effectiveness of a range of summer weed control options. The subsequent effect on yield as a result of weed control.

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**Company:** Liebe Group

**Farmer:** Colin McGregor  
**Location:** East Maya



**Background:** Moisture conservation over summer can potentially have a large impact on subsequent crop yields. Therefore the control of summer weeds is very important in the lower rainfall areas. This trial compared spraying summer weeds with either Ally or Garlon and ploughing summer weeds.

## Treatments:

| Treatment |  |                                    |
|-----------|--|------------------------------------|
| Control   | No chemical, no ploughing                  |                                    |
| Garlon    | 70 mL Garlon, 600 mL Roundup, 300 mL Ester | Sprayed 24 <sup>th</sup> February  |
| Ally      | 5 g Ally, 600 mL Roundup, 300 mL Ester     | Sprayed 24 <sup>th</sup> February  |
| Plough    | No chemical, ploughed                      | Ploughed 25 <sup>th</sup> February |

## Trial Details:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Plot size                   | 12m x 200m  |
| Soil type                   | Two soil types were used, sandy loam and red loam.  |
| Sowing date                 | 26 <sup>th</sup> May  |
| Ploughing                   | 25 <sup>th</sup> February   |
| Conditions at sowing        | Some soil moisture  |
| Machinery                   | Ploughing: Ezee-on disc's<br>Seeding: Concord bar 12 inch spacings (Anderson openers)   |
| Seeding rate                | Calingiri at 45 kg/ha   |
| Fertiliser                  | 50 kg DAPS, 25 kg/urea with seed. 50 kg/ha Muriate of Potash on Sandy soil  |
| Herbicides and Insecticides | 24 <sup>th</sup> February: Summer weeds sprayed<br>15 <sup>th</sup> July: 500 mL MCPA LVE, 4 g Glean<br>5 <sup>th</sup> September: 145 mL Folicur |
| Paddock History             | 2002 = Failed Wheat, 2001 = Wheat, 2001 = Pasture   |

**Results:**

| <b>Treatment</b> | <b>Mean Yield t/ha</b> | <b>Approximate cost of summer weed control/ ha</b> | <b>Return \$/ha</b> | <b>Return less the cost of summer weed control</b> |
|------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Garlon</b>    | 2.38                   | \$8.35   | 547                 | 538  |
| <b>Plough</b>    | 2.40                   | Approximately \$10/ha                              | 552                 | 542  |
| <b>Ally</b>      | 2.18                   | \$6.10   | 501                 | 494  |
| <b>Control</b>   | 2.20                   | -  | 506                 | 506  |
| <b>L.S.D</b>     | 0.343                  |  |                     |  |

**Summary:**

- Weeds counts were taken before and after treatments were applied and no significant difference in weed numbers was recorded.
- Weeds Sprayed with Garlon did however appear to die a lot quicker than those sprayed with Ally.
- Whilst all summer weeds eventually died, the quicker kill with Garlon looks as if it may have helped conserve moisture.
- Whilst there was no significant difference in yield between the plots, the trend suggests that a quick weed kill (Garlon, plough) helped retain moisture. As a result wheat yield was increased.
- Ploughing summer weeds looks to be a potentially good method of weed control. It is cost effective and could have some soil health benefits.
- This was only a demonstration, further studies into the importance of controlling summer weeds for moisture conservation are needed.