

7. CONTROLLED TRAFFIC TRIALS

7.1 S.A. Raised Bed Experiments

Researchers

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Aim

To determine whether raised beds would assist in waterlogging control and give higher crop returns.

Method

A total of 5 sites were established in S.E. South Australia to investigate the suitability of raised beds for waterlogging control, a major factor limiting both crop yields and the expansion of cropping in S.E. South Australia.

Sites were established at Pooginagoric, Mundulla, Frances, Kybybolite and Lucindale. A series of spoon drains were dug around each of the sites to prevent water coming onto the site from adjacent areas. Beds were then established with furrows at 1.7 metre centres.

RESULTS

Site location and crop type	Raised beds Yield T/ha	Conventional Yield T/ha
Pooginagoric (canola)*	1.50	1.70
Mundulla (canola)#	0.31	0.63
Frances (wheat)*	2.09	3.30
Kybybolite (triticale)	2.80	2.25
Lucindale (canola)#	2.50	1.80

* delayed sowing # establishment affected

DISCUSSION

The demonstration sites in 1999 received Decile 1 (lowest 10% of rainfall recordings). As a consequence waterlogging did not occur. Delayed time of sowing and inaccurate seed placement on the raised beds at a number of sites attributed to yield differences between the treatments.

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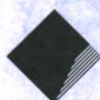
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