8.3 Spring Sown Chickpea Demonstration

Researcher
Steve Holden DNRE – Hamilton

Site
Hamilton – Blackwood

Aims
To investigate the suitability as chickpeas as a spring sown crop in the high rainfall zone.

Management
Sown on the 5/10/99 at a sowing rate designed to give a plant density of 35 plants per square metre. Fungicide was sprayed fortnightly on two of the plots to minimise the problem of the fungal leaf disease aschochyta blight. Four applications were used in total.

Background

With the increased interest in finding an alternative pulse crop for the high rainfall zone, the potential for growing chickpeas as a spring sown crop needed to be investigated. While a number of growers attempted to grow chickpeas in the southwest last year many had problems with ascochyta blight and poor establishment. This demonstration was developed to assess the feasibility of growing chickpeas if ascocyhta blight can be controlled.

RESULTS

Variety	*Treatment*	*Yield (T/ha)*
Kaniva	+ fungicide	1.14
Kaniva	- fungicide	0.77
8511-19	+ fungicide	1.64
8511-19	– fungicide	1.65
FLIP94-62C	- fungicide	2.01
FLIP94-90C	- fungicide	1.59

This demonstration was not replicated and the results should be viewed with caution as paddock variation may have affected the yields. However there are some interesting trends showing up.

Aschocyta blight was evident in the plots and the fungicidal applications gave some benefit to the commercial variety Kaniva. The increased yield would more than cover the cost of the fungicide. The breeders line 8511-19 did not benefit from the use of fungicide and its yield was exceptional even with the disease present. The two FLIP lines also had exceptional yields.