

8.4 Spring Sown Lentil Trial

Researcher

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Site

Hamilton – Blackwood

Background

The search for the elusive pulse crop continues with interest in Lentil's being buoyed by the increase in plantings in the rest of the state. Lentils are very susceptible to waterlogging and acidic soils and should only be trialled on either well drained neutral soils or as a spring crop.

Aims

1. To determine the suitability of lentils as a spring sown crop in the Hamilton district.
2. To determine the most suitable varieties for the Hamilton district.

Management

Sown on the 5/10/99 at a sowing rate determined by the seed size to give a plant density of 120 plants per square metre.

RESULTS

Variety	Yield (t/ha)
RED LENTILS	
Ansak	0.59
Aldinga	0.95
Cassab	0.06
Cobber	0.72
Cumra	0.52
Digger	0.18
Northfield	0.32
Nugget	0.87
Redwing	1.19
GREEN LENTILS	
G103	0.64
Laird	1.04
Maltilda	0.13
Richlea	1.40
LSD (t/ha)	0.75

The results here and in Tasmania indicate that the later maturing lines are the only suitable varieties for spring sowing. The early maturing lines just did not put on any height before they reached maturity and hence were impossible to harvest. Results to date are not positive for most of the varieties, although the lines that yielded over a tonne to the hectare should give a fairly profitable gross margin.