

## 5.5 PULSE

### 5.5.1 PULSE DEMONSTRATION (LAKE BOLAC, VIC)

#### Abstract:

Pulses such as faba beans, field peas and lupins have not been widely adopted in the high rainfall zone of southern Victoria as many growers see them as too risky. With newer varieties and a better understanding of their management, the area of pulse production should increase dramatically.

#### Background/Objectives:

While crop production has more than tripled in the high rainfall zone of western Victoria over the last ten years, pulse production has not kept pace with this increase. Pulses are seen as being high risk as crop failures have been reported in the past due to disease, weeds and waterlogging. These problems have largely been overcome by successful growers and with the adoption of new varieties and a better understanding of the management of them, the potential for pulse expansion in the high rainfall zone is good.

#### Researchers:

Steve Holden, Department of Primary Industries

**Location:** Lake Bolac

**Growing Season Rainfall (April-Nov):** 427 mm

#### Methodology:

**Sowing Date:** 20/05/2004

**Rate:** variable

- aimed for 25 plants/m<sup>2</sup> for Faba Beans

- aimed for 45 plants/m<sup>2</sup> for Lupins

**Fertilizer:** MAP

**Rate:** 100 kg/ha

**Harvest date:** 14/01/2005

#### Results and Discussion:

The yields of both the faba beans and the lupins were below what should be achievable for the district. In the case of the beans, foliar fungal diseases such as ascochyta blight and chocolate spot limited their potential. The beans were sprayed with fungicide at six weeks after emergence but missed out on later critical applications. Despite this their yields were reasonable and with a properly planned fungicide program it should be possible to increase the yields dramatically. Faba bean yields double what we achieved are not unreasonable. In the case of the lupins, poor weed control limited their potential yield.

#### Conclusions:

Pulses have a major role to play in the cropping rotation in the high rainfall zone. Many growers are already achieving good results due to sound management and the ability to ensure that operations such as sowing and spraying are done on time. These growers have shown that if done successfully, pulses can form a profitable part of the rotation. In the high rainfall zone they can be high yielding and produce a sound gross margin, as well they provide opportunities for disease breaks and herbicide rotations and the grazing value of some pulse stubbles, such as beans and peas, should not be underestimated.

A small group of pulse growers will be set up with Southern Farming Systems this year as a joint initiative of the Streatham SFS committee and growers, Pulse Australia and DPI Vic. The aim will be to assist growers, to foster best management in pulse crops, to demonstrate successful pulse cropping to the group and improve communication. Key retail agronomists will also be involved.

**Table 1: Results of 2004 Pulse Demonstration**

Crop and Variety	Yield (t/ha)
Fiesta Faba Beans	2.15
Manafest Faba Beans	2.09
Jindalee Lupins	1.86
Moonah Lupins	0.72

### 5.5.2 GRAIN LEGUME VARIETY EVALUATIONS - FABA BEANS (CAMPBELL TOWN, TAS)

#### Locations:

Symmons Plains and "Riccarton", Campbell Town

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