

Early Season Wheat Variety Trial

This trial was sown, following pre-irrigation, on May 26th with variable sowing rates ranging from 77 - 110 kg/ha aiming at an establishment of 180 plants/m². Conditions at sowing were moist. Establishment was below expectation at 65% instead of the normal 70%, for an average plant population of 167 pl/m².

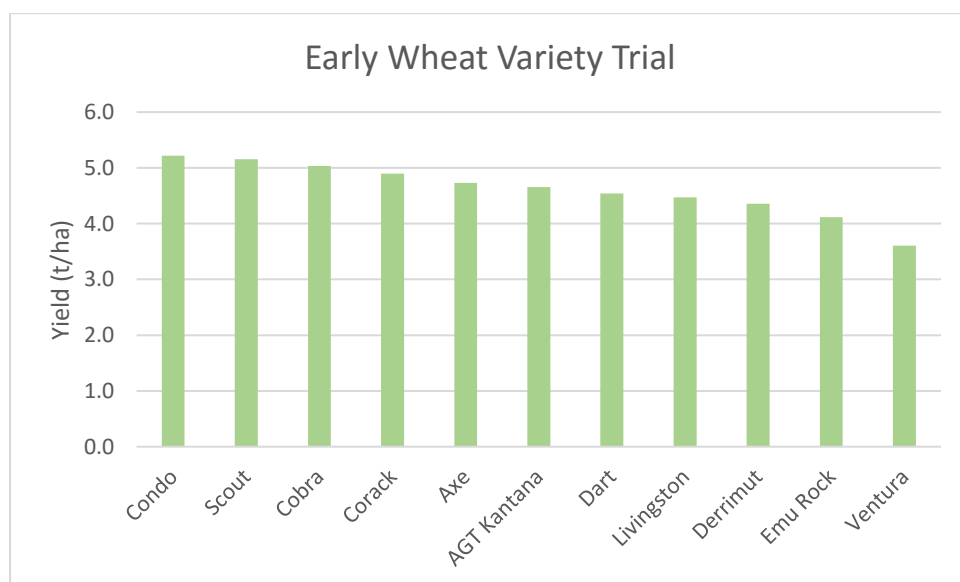
The trial was supplied with a total of 240 kg N/ha from all sources (soil, mineralisation and fertiliser) - enough for a 6 t/ha crop of APW quality wheat. The target of 6 t/ha was seen as a realistic target post emergence as the crop was slower to emerge compared with the main variety trial. From experience, if conditions favour a yield higher than the original target, the higher yield is achieved at the expense of protein.

The trial received a fungicide application as a prophylactic treatment as no stripe rust or other foliar disease was detected through the season.

Weed competition proved to be a major hurdle. Despite being sprayed twice before sowing, header trails from the 2014 harvest still provided a seed bank that germinated post sowing. This ryegrass is also resistant to Group A and probably B herbicides and the decision was made to abandon part of the site that was the most affected.

First spring irrigation was on September 7th, the second on September 18th. And the third on October 3rd and the fourth irrigation on October 16th.

Harvested on November 30th, the trial averaged 4.6 t/ha.



Due to the weed competition, the data is highly variable and should be viewed with caution. The statistical analysis regards no variety as being significantly different to any other.