

Grazing wheat and barley in Badgingarra

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Purpose:	To compare Fortune, Wyalkatchem, Wedgetail wheat and Baudin barley as grazing crops.
Location:	Badginagarra
Soil Type:	Sandplain
Soil Results:	See table 1

Table 1: Soil test results for Crop Grazing site at Andrew & Gina Kenny's property in Badgingarra

	pH	AI	ECEC	EC	OC	N(Nit)	N(Amm)	P	PBI	K	S
0-10	4.9	1	3	0.05	0.8	11	5	14	8	37	10
10-20cm	5.0	2	1	0.02	0.2	5	1	8	5	19	3

BACKGROUND

Paddock feed is inevitably tight through the winter months, and planted crops can offer valuable feed. This trial was conducted to compare 1) early dry matter production from four cereal crops and 2) the effect of 'grazing' on grain yield.

TRIAL DESIGN

Plot size: 2.5m * 20m (3 replicates)

Crop details: 80 kg/ha on 26 May 2011

Fertiliser: **At seeding:** 100 kg/ha MacroPro @ 100 kg/ha

Post: NS41 @ 90 kg/ha (26 June); NS41 @ 90 kg/ha (27 July); Flexi-N @ 50 L/ha (12 August)

Grazing: Mechanically grazed on 25 July to grazing height.

RESULTS

Table 2 Dry matter and yield measurements of various grazed and ungrazed treatments

Trt	Crop	Grazing	25-Jul	Harvest
			DM (t/ha)	Yield (t/ha)
1	Fortune	Y	-	3.5
2	Wyalkatchem	Y	-	3.5
3	Wedgetail	Y	-	3.2
4	Baudin	Y	-	2.8
5	Fortune	N	0.5	4.1
6	Wyalkatchem	N	0.6	3.6
7	Wedgetail	N	0.5	2.7
8	Baudin	N	0.4	3.3
Variety			ns	ns
Grazing				ns
Variety * Grazing				ns

DISCUSSION

- Quadrat cuts at the end of July showed that each of the crops produced about 0.5 t/ha dry matter. There were no significant differences between the crops ($P < 0.05$).
- Crop yields were generally between 3 and 4 t/ha. Once again, there were no significant differences between varieties and there was no significant effect of grazing on yield ($P < 0.05$).
- The ungrazed Baudin was badly affected by mildew.

REVIEWED: Owen Langley

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