

# Field Pea demonstration trial

## Background

At the start of the season, Elders Kingscote was provided with 3 lines of peas for demonstration trials from Seednet. The varieties were PBA Coogee (forage and grain conventional type), PBA Oura (mainly grain conventional type) and PBA Pearl (high yielding conventional white pea).

## What was done

The three pea lines were inoculated with Nodulaid Group E inoculant and sown at 100kg/ha with 85kg Zincstar® 10 on the 13th June 2013 on Stanton's Yerda block, Bark Hut Road, Stokes Bay. The majority of the paddock was sown to canola a day earlier but ended up being baled for canola/ryegrass hay due to the inability to get on the paddock to spray the weeds since it was so wet.

Since this demonstration was over a rise in a really wet paddock no one looked at it until Spring (17th October) when it was decided to go for a walk and the photos below show what was seen.

## Results

FIGURE 1, PBA Coogee, shows that variety flowering prolifically with a heap of bulk/biomass. This huge amount of bulk meant that it smothered out the weeds. You can see the yellow flowers of the suffering waterlogged canola (~30cm high) in the background.

PBA Coogee can be grown for seed or forage. Its grain yield is quite good, while it also puts on a lot of biomass, so the aim with this particular variety is to allow a grower to choose during the season whether to grow it for grain, cut it for hay or leave it standing for grazing weaners. The yield monitor was reading around ~3.3t/ha at harvest (and a lot was left behind). I should also mention that wallabies graze this paddock hard, as it borders the Yerda Pine Forest.

The other two varieties are more suited as a grain option. PBA Pearl is a high yielding white pea (see foreground of FIGURE 2). This did not put on the same amount of biomass as the PBA Coogee meaning that it wasn't able to out compete the weeds but it had a LOT of pods per plant. A collection of these



FIGURE 1: **PBA Coogee**



FIGURE 2: **PBA Pearl in foreground. PBA Coogee in background**

plants took out the Grand Champion Grain exhibit at the Parndana Show. The yield monitor read ~3.7t/ha at harvest. A contributing factor to its exceptional yield was its ability to stand well at harvest combined with its good pod shattering tolerance.

PBA Oura is marketed for its resistance to bacterial blight. It is early flowering and maturing and better suited for crop topping than Kaspera. The yield monitor displayed ~3.5t/ha.

#### **Take home messages**

- PBA Coogee being a dual purpose pea provides growers the option to either cut for hay, harvest for grain, or graze.
- PBA Pearl is consistently the highest yielding pea variety in all areas across SA (2013 NVT data). It stands well and has better pod shattering tolerance than traditional varieties.

#### **Funding/Sponsors**

- Seednet for supplying the pea seed.
- Stanton Family for sowing the seed.

#### **For further information contact**

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