Euabalong Pulse Yield Comparisons

Linda Stockman

Background

The CWFS farmer group at Euabalong are interested in developing their cropping rotation to include pulse crops. The main reasons are that pulses can reduce the risk of diseases and weeds in future cereal crops, can add nitrogen and improve soil conditiona and, overall, lengthen the cropping life of a paddock. The extra benefits can be spreading risk and timing of workload.

Method

In order to find suitable crops and varieties for the western area as many varieties as reasonably possible would be sown and monitored. Three varieties of the most likely crops of field peas, vetch and lupins (narrow and broadleaf) and one variety of lentils were sown.

Fertiliser was sown at 80 kg/ha DAP and Trifluralin was applied at 2 l/ha and incorporated by sowing, which provided excellent control of ryegrass and wireweed. Seed sowing rates varied according to variety and seed size.

Results

Crop	Variety	Ave Yield t/ha
Field Peas	Morgan	0.72
	Snowpeak	0.33
	Bohatyr	0.49
Vetch	Popany	0.33
	Haymaker Plus	0.31
	Blanche Fluer	0.32
Narrowleaf Lupins	Wonga	0.50
	Merrit	0.30
Broadleaf Lupin	Ultra	0.31
Lentils	Digger	0.17

Morgan field peas yielded 0.72 t/ha on average, and achieved yields on two replicate plots of 0.9 t/ha, which was an excellent result.

A number of problems limited yields in all plots, including a late sowing date of 25th June, rainfall shortages and a considerable Indian Hedge Mustard problem.

Further work will be done analysing results when the new CWFS Research Coordinator commences duty in May 2002.