



Plan now to control Rhodes grass

COMING into winter harvest, now is the time to plan ahead for summer weed control of feathertop Rhodes grass (FTR).

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry research scientist Michael Widderick said FTR was an all-too-familiar name to farmers in the north, but it could be effectively managed by applying an integrated weed management (IWM) approach in both fallow and in-crop phases.

"The focus needs to be on running down the weed seedbank and preventing seed set," Dr Widderick said.

Dr Widderick said the weed could not be reliably controlled with glyphosate, especially after early tillering.

"No single weed management treatment will provide 100 per cent control, so use a variety of tactics, both chemical and non chemical."

Farmers should determine the treatment type according to the density and distribution across paddocks.

"Spot treatments can be used for scattered or occasional FTR infestations. Target small, non-moisture stressed and actively growing plants to improve the chances of good control."

IWM strategies to controlling FTR are detailed in a new fact sheet from the Grains Research

and Development Corporation (GRDC), including the effectiveness of various control options such as strategic tillage, crop competition and on farm hygiene.

When using chemical control methods for FTR Dr Widderick said several residual herbicides were effective at stopping seeds germinating and plants establishing, and could therefore deplete the weed seedbank.

"Ideally residual herbicides are applied to a clean paddock and rain is received within two weeks of application so the herbicide can move into the surface soil," he said.

"The double-knock tactic can be effective and there are a number of available options," Dr Widderick said.

He said Glyphosate (Group M) could be followed between seven and 21 days later by Paraquat (Group L) in a double-knock, with the addition of a grass-selective residual such as Balance to the second knock.

Another option for Queensland growers is a permit initiated by the Northern Grower Alliance (PER 12941), which allows the doubleknock of a Group A herbicide followed by paraquat (Group L) but only in fallows that are to be planted to mungbeans. This permit is effective until

August 2016 and is restricted to Queensland growers only.

However, the practise of using Group A herbicides in fallow poses a high risk for resistance to develop so it is vital to only use them as part of a carefully considered IWM plan. For on farm hygiene control in non-crop areas, imazapyr can be used.

"The efficacy of herbicides against FTR drops rapidly when plants are larger than the early tillering stage or are moisture-stressed so spray young plants as soon as possible after rain for best results," Dr Widderick said.

"Always sow crops into weed-free conditions and delay sowing of summer crops in paddocks with a high density of FTR.

"As FTR germinates at or very near the soil surface, burying the seed below 5cm will prevent germinations.

"Strategic soil disturbance is another option. One pass with a harrow has been shown to reduce the number of seedlings emerging by about 90 per cent compared to zero-till."

"The majority of FTR seeds lose viability after seven to 12 months, which means that although FTR is a difficult weed to manage, if seed production can be limited over one or two seasons then it can be brought under control."

Waterbombing after a fire broke out near Moree, believed to be started from a header that caught alight.



Reduce fire risks

HARVESTER fires are a very real danger for anyone operating a header, but farmers can significantly reduce fire risk by following some simple steps.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) has put together a handy Back Pocket Guide for reducing harvester fire risk to help keep farmers safe this harvest.

GRDC manager regional grower services for the north Sharon O'Keeffe said fire could start aboard any harvester and once burning it could take off quickly.

"By being aware of the dangers and focussing on hygiene and maintenance you can significantly reduce the risk on your farm," Ms O'Keeffe said.

According to Kondinin Group research, seven per cent of headers will start a fire, and of these, one in 10 will cause significant damage to the machine or surrounding crop.

Ms O'Keeffe said the 23-page booklet contained advice and tips to stop your farm becoming a statistic.

"It is important to recognise the big four factors that contribute to fires: relative humidity, ambient temperature, wind and crop type and conditions," Ms O'Keeffe said.

"Operating in dangerous conditions is never worth the risk so always stop harvest when the danger is extreme."

She said it was a good idea to talk to dealers and other farmers to identify the problem areas for your individual harvester make and model.

"Avoid accumulation of flammable material and be on the lookout for chafing," she said. "Areas of increased risk include dust trap areas, rubbing or slipping belts or failure-prone bearings and these should be checked more regularly.

"From the operator's seat in the cabin it can be difficult to detect the early stages of a fire and smell smoke. Always keep all communication lines open so that fires can be reported as early as possible.

"And remember to always carry the appropriate fire extinguishers – if you detect a fire, face the harvester into the wind and evacuate immediately."

Ms O'Keeffe said a rigorous clean-down routine was the best way to reduce fire risk.

A comprehensive list of fire checks and cleaning and maintenance advice for each section of the header is contained in the Back Pocket Guide.

"Incorporating this advice into your daily routine make the difference in preventing fire on your farm," Ms O'Keeffe said.

The Back Pocket Guide can be found via: www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-BPG-ReducingHarvesterFireRisk

The new MF9500 Series Combines.

Designed to make the longest days seem shorter.



Model	Engine (HP)	Grain Tank (L)
MF9540	370	350 (12,334)
MF9560	460	350 (12,334)

That's next generation thinking.

At day's end, you want a combine that can put more clean grain in the grain tank. You want a combine that'll go nonstop and work with you – with less maintenance and less downtime. Introducing the Massey Ferguson 9500 Series. These combines have been rethought and reengineered with a simple mission: to give you more control every day during harvest. So you can start earlier, run later and finish faster. Discover the next generation in combines.

Stop by our dealership or visit www.masseyferguson.com.au today.

Phone: Tony Alexander 0408 239 707 OR Bob Symonds 0408 253 275

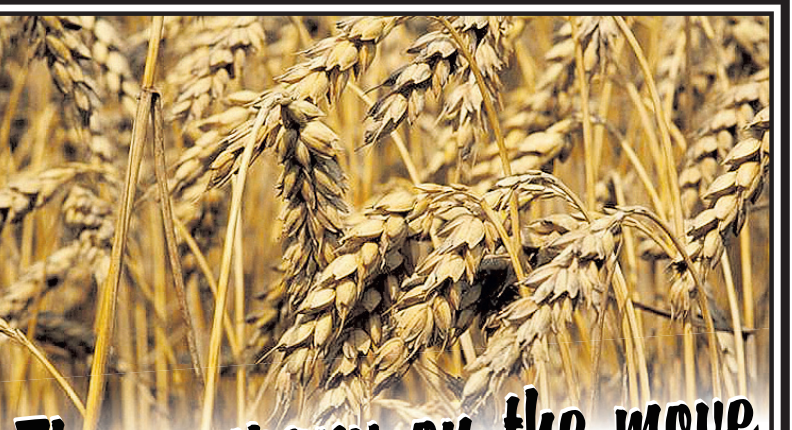


MASSEY FERGUSON

AM1251595

BLACK
TRUCK & AG

MOREE - Newell Highway
Phone (02) 6752 2277



The company on the move

For all your freight needs. From a carton to a tractor & anything in between.

We have road trains & experienced grain drivers ready to go for your harvest transport.



Contact Glen Nash on 0427 511 344
or Nash's Moree on (02) 6752 1244

NE320098

HARVEST HELPERS



Winter harvest starts on northern variety trials

WINTER crop harvest has started on the canola, barley and wheat national variety trials in the northern grains region.

DPI manager Northern Cropping Systems, Dr Guy McMullen said the first to be harvested last week was the canola and barley trials at Garah with the wheat trials to come off this week.

"DPI has 21 winter crop variety trial sites located across the northern grains region of NSW," Dr McMullen said.

"In total there are more than 60 trials to be harvested from these sites totalling more than 6000 agronomy plots.

"Trials are located at DPI's key research centres at Tamworth and Trangie and across a network of trial locations including Rowena, Wee Waa, Terry Hie Hie, Somerton, Bithramere Winton, Breeza, Pine Ridge, Caroon, Spring Ridge, Coonamble, Nyngan, Merriwa, and Wongarbon.

"These regional trials are located on farmers' properties and are providing applied research and development to address constraints and investigate new technologies for grain production.

"The trials conducted by the northern cropping systems groups are jointly funded by NSW DPI and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

"In many cases these trials are in collaboration with universities and

other state departments across Australia.

"Initial results suggest that grain yields are better than expected with mixed weather conditions experienced this season including low rainfall, late frosts and high temperatures.

"This season has once again highlighted the extreme importance of stored water, right throughout the region.

"Trials this year cover a broad range of topics including nutrition (nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur), planting time, planting depth, lodging management, seeding rate, dual purpose cereals and management of crown rot with either planting time or row spacing."

Yield and protein and/or oil results from these trials will be available following harvest while the other quality parameters such as screenings, test weight and retention will be available early January 2014.

A selection of these results will be presented at GRDC grower and advisor updates in early 2014 throughout the region.

In addition, trial reports will again be included in the annual Northern grains region trial results published in June 2014. Results will also be used to update wheat, barley and canola variety information for other publications such as Winter crop variety sowing guide published in March 2014.

Quality is everything

WITH harvest underway, now is the time to think about how you will manage seed retention on your farm.

Paying close attention to the quality of your seed through regular testing, and discarding low germination seed, is one of the easiest ways to get your next season off to the best possible start.

Growers should harvest at low moisture and cool temperatures to help ensure the quality of your seed.

And at this time of year many farmers may also

be thinking about the option of grain storage, and whether it would prove profitable on their farm.

To help with this significant decision, the GRDC has put together a handy fact sheet with a template containing a list of the relevant calculations.

The template can be used to calculate whether grain storage is suitable for a grower's business.

The fact sheet can be found here: www.storedgrain.com.au

FMBC

Fred Monckton's Bearing Centre Pty Ltd

We supply broadacre equipment parts to northern NSW & south west Qld

Full range of bearings, seals, filters, nuts, bolts, bearings, hoses and safety equipment for all automotive and agricultural machinery.

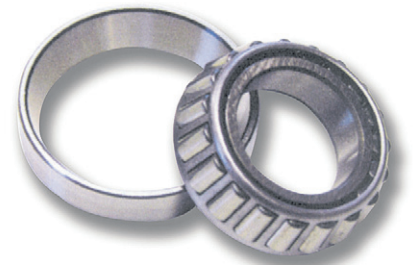
Engineering - Full range including lathe, milling machine, all size steel shafts.

- Full range of hydraulics, sprockets and chains, pulleys & belts on module builders — loaders — pickers — strippers
- Fire Fighting Protection
- A, B & C Section Belts Double Angle

Be prepared for harvest

Check your spare parts supply now.

Moree Replacement Parts
Moree Hydraulic Centre
Moree Machine Shop
Freddies Auto Parts



Moree Ph: 02 6752 4111

Moree: Thompsons Avenue, Fax: 6752 1497

**We carry a full range of hydraulic fittings and equipment
Rams — Valves — Seals Pumps — Motors**

Book your Post Harvest Performance Plus inspection NOW and be ready for anything!!!

- Inspections completed by CA Trained Technicians
- Extended parts and labour warranty*
- Discount on genuine John Deere Parts*
- In season priority next season*

Added peace of mind, know your Harvester is ready for next season.

*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.



CHESTERFIELD AUSTRALIA
SOLUTIONS WHEN YOU NEED THEM



JOHN DEERE

1300 243 783
1300 CHESTERFIELD
www.chesterfieldaustralia.com.au

