



Southern Australia Durum Growers Association Inc

www.durumgrowerssa.org.au

From the Chairman

Issue 5—October 2013

What a difference six months can make after a very dry start! Mild, not too wet seeding, then plentiful growing season rainfall and great crop growth to follow.

The season for all producers, especially those of you who have stuck with Durum, is shaping up to be one of the better ones.



As this newsletter goes to print, harvest has started in the very early areas, with encouraging news about yields and quality.

With the final maturity of Durum crops happening, let's hope the protein levels are up to DR1 for the majority of your deliveries, knowing the yield potential generally, is well above average. The new sliding scale for protein payments will be very well received for the area based contracts.

The concern of some about screening issues with our new varieties, I hope this year won't be a problem.

The two crop walks this year for the High Rainfall Site and Hart Field Day Site were very well attended with strong new interest.

New variety breeding and trial work is progressing well in the hands of Jason Able, Kenton Porker and Rob Wheeler.

The new line 096 is progressing well with full evaluation for milling this year and hopefully full commercial release by 2015.

The South East /Kaniva crop walk takes place this week and we look forward to interaction with the Western Victorian and South East producers.

At our most recent committee meeting, our long serving Treasurer Neville Sharpe retired and on behalf of all Durum growers I thank Neville for 25 years of loyal and dedicated service as Treasurer.

Neville will remain as seed manager and seed sales.

After advertising to replace Neville, John Green, Leith Cooper and myself met to select our new treasurer Alice Kempe who comes to us with a farming/banking background. Alice is working full time for the ANZ in Adelaide and will handle our financial matters well.

It was with much regret that I accepted Monica's resignation last week. Monica has worked tirelessly for the committee for the last 5 years with great dedication, and we wish her well for the future.

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Chairman's Report cont.

After much discussion with the committee and the selection committee for the new Treasurer, I have taken Chairman's initiative to select the applicant who was runner up to Alice for the Treasurer's job, as our new secretary.

Our new secretary will be Ann Price. Ann comes to us with a wealth of experience in agriculture, Land Care, Farm Safe, Advisory Board of Agriculture, Women in Agriculture and Business, Royal Life Saving Society to mention a few of Ann's life skills.

On behalf of the Durum Industry I would like to welcome Alice and Ann. The committee look forward to working with you both.

The Committee would like to acknowledge two new sponsors Toepfer Grain and Imtrade. Along with our existing sponsors San Remo, GRDC, Viterro, Glencore, SARDI, AWB, GrainCorp, SAGIT, ANZ, AGG, AGD, many thanks for your involvement and your important contributions towards our Research and future Development.

Thanks to John Green for managing all sponsors and trial matters.

To all of our research partners, committee, seed growers and producer, many thanks for making the Durum industry in Southern Australia so vibrant!

All the best for a great harvest with not too many hold ups and a happy and safe Christmas.

Mark Hill, Chairman

We welcome our newest Sponsor—Imtrade Australia

Contact: John Barbetti M: 0407 922102 or E: john.barbetti@imtrade.com.au



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**We wish all of our loyal supporters a bumper harvest
and hope you have a
great holiday season with your family and friends.**



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Rob Wheeler and Kenton Porker, SARDI,
Jason Able, The University of Adelaide



Improving Grass Weed Control in Durum



Kenton Porker, SARDI

A project aiming to improve grass weed control in durum wheat is being led by the SA DGA thanks to funding by SAGIT and corporate sponsors. There are limited, safe and effective herbicide options for grass weed control in durum. Durum wheat is an inherently poor competitor with grass weeds and requires an increased reliance on herbicide use coupled with good agronomic practices (ie paddock selection). The introduction of new chemistry pre-emergent herbicides for managing resistant ryegrass populations has been welcomed by industry. However, BoxerGold and Avadex are the only registered pre-emergent options for durum; these herbicides still however present some issues in durum as they have potential to cause significant crop damage resulting in reductions in plant establishment, early vigour and yield. Furthermore ryegrass can still set large amounts of seed even if it has been treated with a pre-emergent herbicide. It is therefore prudent for growers to integrate other strategies to help improve a crop's competitive ability with weeds. Therefore this project aims to provide growers with information to help implement an integrated approach to improve grass weed control in durum wheat that (a) could improve the effectiveness and net benefit of commonly used herbicides, and (b) improve the herbicide safety of currently grown durum varieties.

Key messages to date:

- ◆ BoxerGold & Avadex at recommended label rates have been the most effective herbicides for ryegrass control in Durum. At rates required for effective control herbicide damage has still occurred resulting in *Rob Wheeler, SARDI* plant establishment losses and stunted growth, but in general the crop has recovered and not resulted in any yield penalty. Improved crop safety was achieved by sowing seed deeper below the herbicide band and using larger seed. Plant establishment losses were also recovered by increasing seeding rate to compensate for any likely damage.
- ◆ To date there has been no significant or consistent varietal differences in tolerance to BoxerGold in durum. Sakura is not registered for durum and our trials suggest that registration is unlikely due to the level of unrecovered crop damage that occurred in old, new, and elite durum varieties.
- ◆ Current durum varieties differ in their weed competitive ability. In 2012 Saintry a more vigorous variety was found to be the most competitive of current varieties offering similar suppression of ryegrass as bread wheat but less than barley. Other varieties were more similar to the older variety Tamaroi (a known poor weed competitor), however Yawa a more erect variety with reduced early vigour was less competitive than Tamaroi.



- ◆ All 3 durum trials in 2012 (Roseworthy, Tarlee, Hart) showed improved weed competitiveness with increased crop density without any associated yield loss. Increasing seeding rate also improved the effectiveness of the pre-emergent herbicides under ryegrass infestations. Durum have a reduced tillering ability and previous work involving seeding rates has found no benefit in lowering seeding rates for both yield & quality in all durum varieties. Growers should maintain higher seeding rates (>200seeds/m²) for improved weed control, yield and quality.
- ◆ Trials in 2012 demonstrated that the management combination of variety, seeding rate, and herbicide all play a significant role in the success of the system (figure 1). Herbicide was the main factor providing the greatest proportion of weed control, combining this with more vigorous varieties such as Saintly^(A) and increasing seeding rates from 100 to 300seeds/m² resulted in increased yield, improved weed competition and reduced weed seed set. This work is being continued in 2013, an aims to determine the optimal combination of herbicide, variety, and seeding rate for maximum weed control.

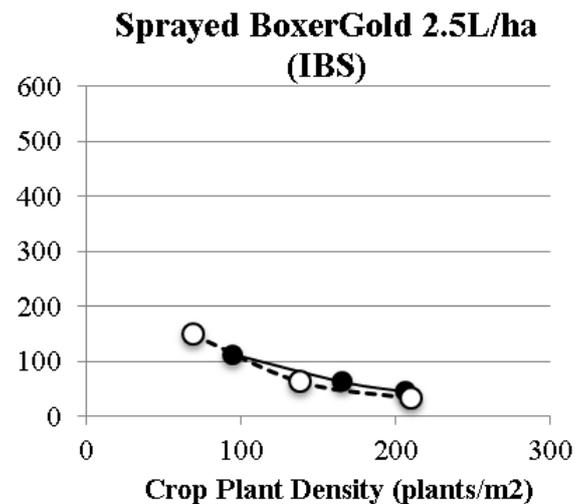
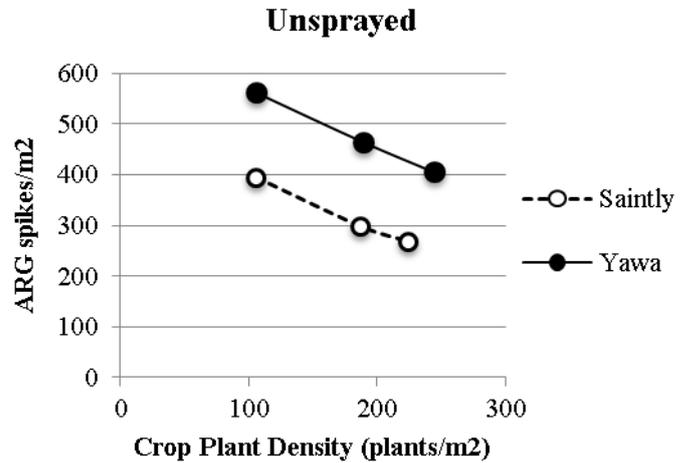


Figure 1: The effect of the management combination of variety, herbicide, and plant density on the density of annual ryegrass spikes at Tarlee 2012 (LSD 5% = 55 spikes/m²)



Dr Jason Able and Michael Jaeschke [committee member] at the Durum Crop Walk on 3rd September 2013, at Hart

**Mid North Crop Walk
Tuesday 3rd September 2013**

**Farmers and Sponsors in the Durum Crop at
Michael Jaeschke's property, Hart**



Lower North Crop Walk Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Right: Rob Wheeler and Jason Able
speaking at the MNHRZ Durum trial site



Right: John Green in the
Durum Crop



Jason Able in Durum Crop at the Mid North High Rainfall Site

SE/Kaniva Crop Walk– 15th October 2013

Farmers in Ted Ridgway's Durum Crop



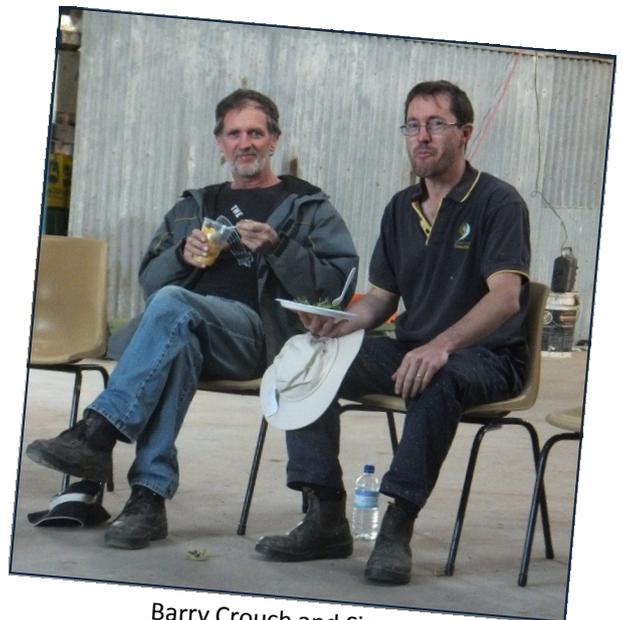
Trial Plot Harvester



Farmers in Alwyn's Durum Crop, Kaniva



Mark Hill, Alwyn Dyer, Steve Mellington and Bill Vandeeper in "Alwyn's Shed" for the BBQ



Barry Crouch and Simon Mock

Seed for Sale—Neville Sharpe

Seed for Sale 2013

The following seed will be available at harvest:

Hyperno, Saintly, Tjilkuri, WID802 and Yawa

In general Tjilkuri and WID802 have a yield advantage and better quality.

Please plan ahead and order your seed early and get it off header (min 4 tons].

Seed will not be available after 30th March 2014.

Neville Sharpe

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