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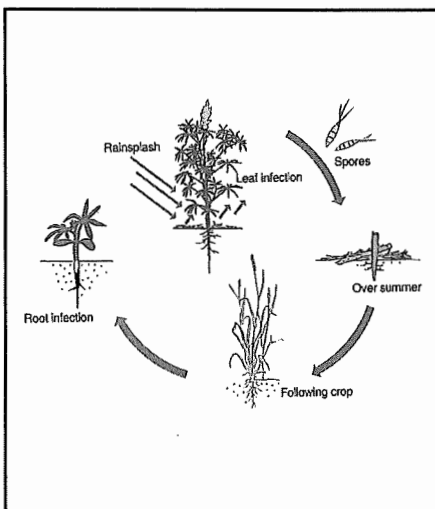
Brown spot in lupins - still a major threat

Over the past few months we have focussed attention on the disease anthracnose in lupins.

While this has been timely, given the wealth of new information on how to manage the disease effectively, growers should not forget the dangers associated with brown spot.

Brown spot disease causes the highest economic loss to the lupin industry on an annual basis.

To control brown spot growers should ensure that after planting there is enough trash or stubble to prevent spore splash from soil onto lupin plants - this is the key to good management.



The infection cycle of brown spot disease.

Also, Sumisclex® and Rovral® fungicides will only give crop protection for seven to 10 days. These fungicides perform best when the crop is seeded later under cooler temperatures.

Growers should not rely on these fungicides for total control of the disease.

The Lupin Logic issues numbers 65, 66 dealt with the whole package. In summary those finding it difficult to grow lupins successfully because of brown spot should attempt the following:

Ensure good surface cover; increase length of rotation; grow lupins on well drained loams and sands; plant as early as possible; use high seeding rates with fungicide treated seed; place the seed at end-on matchbox depth; ensure good nutrition with deep phosphate placement; use brown spot resistant varieties and do not apply grass selective herbicides early.

Remember: Surface soil cover with trash or stubble to prevent spore splash from soil onto plants. This is the critical factor in brown spot management.

Old proverb rings true

"The farmer's footsteps fatteneth the soil" - this old English saying sums up the need for growers to regularly inspect their crops in order to make informed management decisions during the early stages of development. This is of great importance at the plant emergence stage and the ensuing three weeks of growth. While you may still be seeding, it is important time is set aside for inspection of those early sown crops.

Seeding warning

There are only two seeding options open to growers wanting to achieve optimum results - wet or dry. Seeding into moist soil is ideal while seeding into bone dry soil is okay. Seeding into drying soil, where seed absorbs some moisture but then stops leads to a loss of vigour and poor emergence, should be avoided. Note: The seed's ability to draw moisture is also reduced when fertilizer is drilled along with the seed as the fertilizer acts as a salt and draws water away from the seed.

Population explosion or implosion? You decide

I've been presented with an alternative view on the future world population of humankind.

Giving a talk to the National Press Club in March, Professor John Caldwell, of the Australian National University, presented a more positive report on population growth.

Professor Caldwell estimates the world population will peak at about eight billion around the year 2050 and will ultimately dip below six billion.

He said, "This world would certainly be stable in terms of its environment and

ecology for as long as we like to foresee. But, at some stage, our pride might be so affected that we will throw huge resources into persuading women to have children. In Australia, natural increase as a source of population growth is almost a thing of the past and will be so within another decade. My guess is that we will raise immigration levels so as to sustain a modest level of population growth. Indeed, within two or three decades we will have to do so merely to prevent population decline".

Triazine herbicides - should you use them?

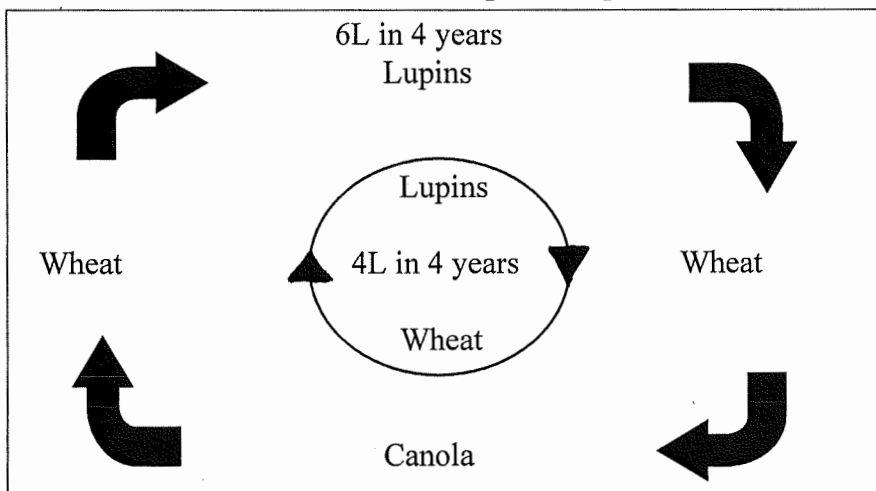
Geraldton-based Elders agronomist, Simon Foley, has put together a flow diagram to show how much triazine herbicides were being used in crop rotations in the northern agricultural regions.

He found there was a heavy reliance on triazine herbicides and this is very troubling as it will obviously lead to resistance in the

future. There are already six populations of ryegrass in the state which are known to be resistant to triazine herbicides.

Also, it has been reported in the farming press that a triazine resistant radish has been found in the Mingenew district.

Triazine resistant radish would threaten WA's oilseed, lupin and pulse industries.



Triazine usage in rotations.

Pulse Points

- Drought conditions in the Middle East may affect Turkey's lentil and chickpea production this season.
- If conditions worsen demand for Australian lentils, chickpeas and field peas will strengthen and this, coupled with the smaller than anticipated Indian crop, will have a positive affect on new season prices.

Where to from here?

In line with the Grain Pool's strategic planning to ensure that information is communicated in the most effective way, we are seeking your views on Legume Logic. What do you think? Has Legume Logic passed its use-by-date? Are you receiving enough information from alternative sources? Correspondence can be directed to the Grain Pool GPO Box A24, Perth, WA 6837.

If you would like to continue receiving Legume Logic in the future please tick the box and fax back to the Grain Pool on 089481 3553 along with your name and address.

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