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Lupin Logic

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# Lupin Logic Number 61

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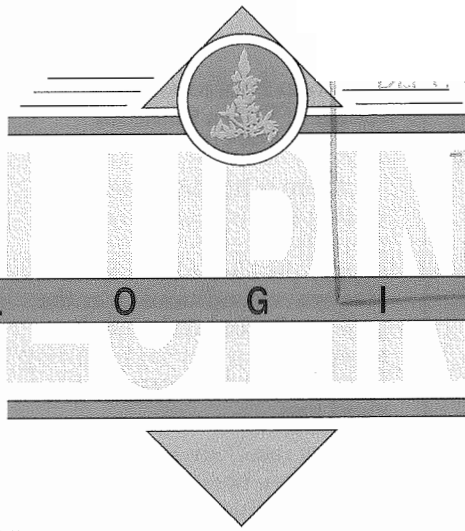
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Grain Pool of W.A.



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## Harvester modifications

Let's assume that this year we planted 950,000 ha of lupins. Losses at harvest time will average 200 kg per hectare. That's 190,000 tonnes of seed on the ground. At a farm value of \$150 that's nearly \$20 million.

Some would argue that it's not a total loss as sheep will make use of the spilt seed, and what the sheep don't eat will provide nitrogen for next year's cereal or canola crop. True, but wouldn't it be far better management to have all the seed in the bin and then have the option of delivering the seed to CBH or feeding it back to the sheep in perhaps a heavy land paddock not susceptible to wind erosion?

Engineers at the Farm Machinery Unit at Merredin have investigated lupin seed losses at harvest time and have shown that the main causes of seed losses are:

- the action of the cutter bar on the plant stem, shaking the plant and making it shed pods; and
- the poor removal of the cut crop from behind the knife.

The table below shows how lupin losses can be minimised and the costs of modifying a 9.1 m front assuming a 1 t/ha lupin crop worth \$150/tonne on farm.

Glen Reithmuller, agricultural engineer and Ed Blanchard, former agricultural engineer at Merredin have written an excellent Farmnote on lupin harvesting modifications. This is compulsory reading for all lupin growers. The Farmnote is number 19/95 and is available at all district offices or from head office in Baron-Hay Court, South Perth.

Lupin crops in the north are now in flower or coming into flower. Now is the time to modify the header and make sure the crop you have grown is in the bin and not on the ground.

**Table 1. Cost/benefit analysis of lupin harvesting front modifications**

(The table is based on modification costs for a 9.1 m front and a lupin crop worth \$150/t net on farm with a crop yield of 1 t/ha)

	Average seed loss kg/ha	Loss reduction over single density knife guards kg/ha	Loss reduction over single density knife guards \$/ha	Modification cost \$	Area needed to recoup investment (ha)
Single density knife guards	180				
Double density knife guards	141	39	6.85	2,000	290
Air reels with double density knife guards	91	89	13.43	7,500	560
Extended sweeps, double density knife guards, air reel and platform	66	114	17.1	15,060	880
Belt fronts with double density knife guards	82	99	14.78	47,300	3,200

Lupin Logic is published by the Grain Pool of WA in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

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## Farmer attitude to grain legumes

Why in 1995 aren't there 250,000 ha of peas and 250,000 ha of chickpeas grown on suitable soils in the Western Australian wheatbelt?

This question will be answered by Amir Abadi and his colleagues Anne Bennett and Vanessa Stewart based at the Centre for Legumes in a Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA) located at the University of Western Australia.

Amir and his colleagues are involved in a project funded by you through the Rural Industries and Development Corporation (RIRDC) called 'The adoption of grain legumes - the importance of risk'.

The group have already travelled 20,000 km in the central and eastern wheatbelt asking 120 of you what you think about the pulse crops compared with more traditional enterprises such as wheat, sheep and lupins. Amir believes that it is very important to know what you are looking for in these pulse crops and how they will fit into your farming system. This information will guide breeders and agronomists to provide plants and farming system packages that will deliver the maximum benefit, as reliably as possible, in the shortest possible time.

Amir and his colleagues have already discovered the warm hospitality afforded to them by you during the survey this year and are looking forward to visiting you again during the autumn of 1996.

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## Market comment

*The Grain Pool of WA*

Lupin markets may recover some lost ground in the 1995/96 season.

A combination of strong coarse grain markets and an improving soybean market have seen good prices achieved for early forward sales of lupins into Europe. This has enabled

the Grain Pool to estimate a return of \$180 a tonne for lupins in 1995/96.

There is further potential upside in this price as soybean markets focus on potential supply problems from the US. Heatwave conditions over the past weeks and little rain has meant the current soybean crop is suffering heat stress and yield loss.

As a result soybean meal prices have been at higher levels and this will have a direct influence on lupin prices. Soybean meal is the major competitor with lupins on world protein markets and any increase in the soybean price complex is good for lupin prices.

A firm coarse feed grain market is also helping to lift lupin prices as buyers start to look for feed alternatives. Lupins are a versatile stockfeed providing a source of both protein and energy. This means the spill-over demand from feed (energy) grain markets may have a greater positive effect on lupin prices than on other energy substitutes.

The Grain Pool estimates lupin pool deliveries will be around the 800,000 tonne mark in 1995/96 as growers reap the benefits of what looks like turning out to be a bumper year. Lupin plantings are forecast to be about the same level as 1994/95 but improved seasonal conditions should see much better yields achieved this year.

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## Reminders

**Tissue testing for manganese:** This should be done when the lupin plant main stem comes into first flower. See Lupin Logic 8, 13, 25 and 30.

**Aphids:** Check crops weekly for aphids. See article below.

**CMV:** Inspect crops for CMV infection during next few weeks to decide which areas will be harvested to provide the 1996 seed. See Bulletin 4294.

**Budworm and Kiev lupins:** Have a look for budworm on Kiev lupins.

## PulsePak

*Jenny Garlinge*

Have you ever spent a frustrating couple of hours rummaging through bits of paper and piles of books looking for the answer to a question like how much super can I safely put on when I sow my lupins? Or have you ever wondered whether chickpeas might grow on your soil? Whether the holes you've seen in some seeds could be caused by pea weevil? Or whether the market potential of albus lupins is greater than faba beans?

PulsePak is a computer program that has the answers. Developed jointly by the Department of Agriculture and CLIMA it provides information on all the main pulse crops grown in Australia, with particular emphasis on those suited to the Western Australian environment. The program has been designed for use by producers, consultants and development officers and includes a range of topics including market, quality and agronomy. The main strength of PulsePak is that through the input of a number of contributors we have been able to include the most current information available and it is hoped that this will be maintained through regular updates.

PulsePak operates in the Windows environment so to be able to use it you need an IBM compatible PC with Windows software (version 3.1 or later). The program is very user-friendly and will let you find specific information quickly, but is also interesting to browse through if you have the time.

The package costs \$50 and includes a 3.5" disk that installs PulsePak onto your computer's hard disk and a manual explaining how to use PulsePak to find the information you want.

If you would like to know a bit more about the program before you buy it please call Jenny Garlinge or Mark Yovich on (09) 368 3501.