

# Agri Services SA



**Agriculture - Animal Health - Merchandise**

## NEWSLETTER

### Crop Topping and Spray Topping Crop Topping Cereals and Pulses

October 2009

Crop Topping is becoming a popular practice to ensure.....

Whilst crop topping is not possible in barley due to no products being registered, Roundup PowerMAX is registered for topping in Wheat. The ideal stage to spray wheat is from the late dough stage, with a minimum of 28% moisture – if sprayed any earlier than this, it may result in pinched grain, poor germination and reduced yields.

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Although commonly applied, SpraySeed is not registered for crop topping in any circumstances and should not be used – grain traders and handlers have stated they will be undertaking more testing and taking a stronger stand on this. Paraquat (Gramoxone, Nuquat) is registered for crop topping in all pulses and is the preferred product in this situation. Roundup PowerMAX is also registered for use in all pulses except lupins.

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Desiccating canola is now a common practice, and again SpraySeed has been regularly used in this situation, but it is not registered. Reglone is the only registered product for desiccation and is applied when 70% of the pods are yellow, using rates of 1.5-3L/Ha.

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#### Spray Topping Pastures

In pasture grazing systems where annual winter grasses are a problem, pasture topping with glyphosate or spray-topping with paraquat is important in year-before weed control in preparation for sowing perennial pastures or broadacre crops. Topping involves the application of low rates of herbicide after head emergence to prevent the formation of viable seed. It may also be effective for summer weeds such as summer grass (*Digitaria* spp.), pigeon grass (*Setaria* spp.) and capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*) without destroying the available feed.



Roundup is more suited to a topping situation where Geranium, Stemless and Scotch Thistles and Capeweed are problem weeds, as well as grass weeds, compared to using Gramoxone which only targets grass weeds. Gramoxone is much quicker to work and is rainfast within 30 minutes of spraying, compared to a glyphosate based product which takes much more time to visibly work and requires at least 2 hours rain fastness.

# Crop Topping and Spray Topping Continued...

Gramoxone is also more suitable in medic and lucerne based pastures as damage to those plants is far less.

Timing of applications is critical and is different depending on which product is being used; glyphosate should be applied at early head emergence and 50% of the plants are flowering, whereas Gramoxone should be applied after complete head emergence until the oldest head begin to hay off. Ideally, to ensure an even head emergence and effective topping, the pasture should be grazed prior to spraying.

To ensure an effective topping application in your crops or pastures, contact Lou or Amanda to organise a time to inspect your paddocks.

## What is ?

Desikote Max is a unique formulation containing a di-1-pmenthene polymer and metabolic adjuvants. When sprayed on to the crop it provides a unique elastic, semi-permeable membrane over the filling pods/grains.

### Pod Splitting in Canola

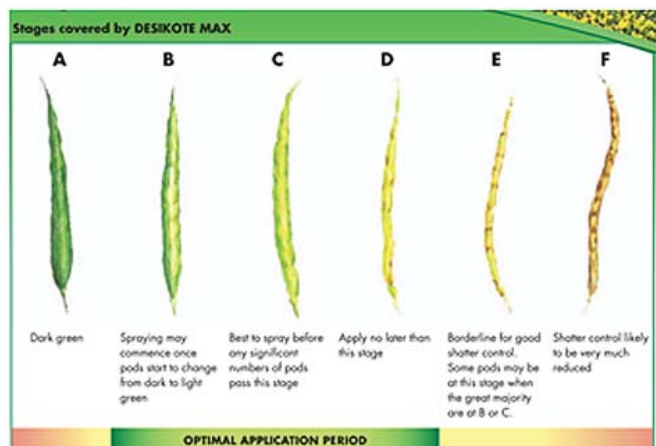
The uneven ripening process in canola can cause substantial yield losses due to pod shattering. On any given plant mature pods may be on the brink of shattering while younger pods are still ripening. To overcome part of this problem windrowing has become the common standard in the Australian canola industry. However, cutting canola before it reaches full maturity means that the crop is unlikely to reach its full yield potential. The final yield is mainly determined by the last 4 weeks of pod development with the oil content being greatly realized towards the end. Because of uneven pod development, not only on an individual plant but through differences in maturity typically encountered every few metres across a field, it is impossible to time swathing on a field scale without losing some yield. Windrowing introduces extra costs and labour. Even if windrowed, pod shatter can still cause substantial losses.

### Why use DesikoteMax in Canola?

- Increases yield potential – by reducing pod shattering and by allowing direct harvesting
- Maximises oil content – by allowing the crop to ripen to its fullest potential
- Increases operational flexibility – by reducing the need for windrowing and increasing the optimum window of harvest

### Rates and Timing in Canola

- DESIKOTE MAX should be applied from the beginning of maturity to achieve full benefit. This will normally be from when the first signs of senescence become apparent, i.e. half the pods have turned from dark to light green.
- The latest time when application would improve pod filling of canola will probably be the same as the normal time for swathing. Since pods can change colour or mature considerably in 24 to 48 hours, it is recommended that application is aimed towards the earlier timing, rather than towards the later timing.
- Desikote Max is applied at rates of 0.75 – 1.2 L /ha. Use the lower rate for light crops and the higher rate for dense crops.
- Desikote Max should be applied by air in a minimum of 50 L water/ha. When applied by ground water rates should be between 100 and 300 L per ha.



**Pre-harvest Sprouting of Cereals**

Pre-harvest sprouting of cereals is defined as germination of physiological ripe kernels before harvest. The increased induction of enzymatic activity may render sprouted grain unfit for many purposes. If the enzymatic activity (measured in Falling Number) is severe enough the quality of the grain will be downgraded. Cereals do not have impermeable seed coats as do legumes and the critical moisture content for germination in freely available water is reached in about three hours. Pre-harvest sprouting is associated with prolonged or repeated rain, heavy dew, high humidity and low temperatures following the ripening of the grain. These conditions that favour sprouting often compound the problem by delaying harvest. Different cereal varieties show different tolerance to sprouting but in general white wheat varieties especially when grown in the northern or coastal grain areas are most affected.

**Why use DesikoteMax in Cereals?**

When sprayed on to the crop it provides a unique elastic, semi-permeable membrane over the filling grain. The membrane reduces entering of water and therefore reduces the incidence and severity of pre-harvest sprouting.

**Timing and Rates**

- Desikote Max should be applied from the beginning of maturity to achieve full benefit.
- Desikote Max is applied in cereals at a rate of 0.5 L /ha.
- The product should be applied by air in a minimum of 50 L water/ha. When applied by ground water rates should be between 100 and 200 L per ha.

**FOR SALE**

**SECONDHAND BOOMSPRAYS**

**Goldacres 4000L** 24m boomspray with exactafoam foam marker, transcal chemical induction, grannypot and Raven 440 controller .....\$27,500 inc GST

**Goldacres 3000L** 18m boomspray with exactafoam foam marker, transcal chemical induction and Kee Mark 5 spray controller. Very tidy.....\$27,500 inc GST

**SECONDHAND FEED MIXER**

**Allbulk Mammoth** feed mixer 6-8 cubic metre hopper, roller mill, hammer mill .....\$17,000 inc GST

**NEW GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT**

40 cubic metre Macey super bin .....\$6,957.50 inc GST

40 cubic metre Macey super bin with PTO driven auger .....\$9,603 inc GST

**SOLD**

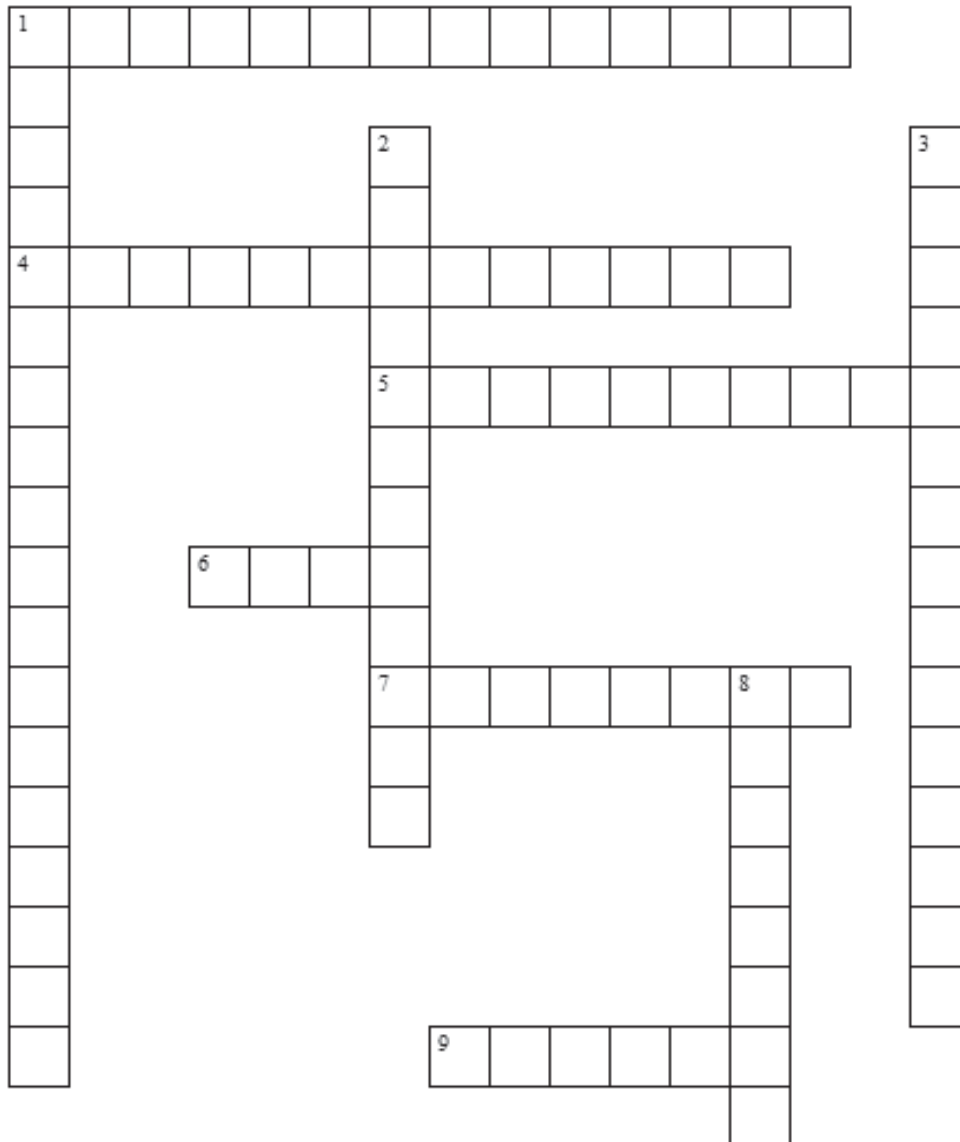
**BH 418 Wheatheart** auger 41ft self propelled with 20hp electric start Honda motor.....\$14,500 inc GST

**PRECISION AG EQUIPMENT**

**GPS Ag A5 Autofarm** auto steer system demo unit...POA

**Contact Jim on 0428 855 060**

# Insects of Field Crops



## ACROSS

- 1 Common Aphid of Canola
- 4 Grub commonly called Heliopsis
- 5 Chemical commonly used to control a wide range of grubs in canola
- 6 Growth stage in a moths life before they reach adulthood
- 7 A flying predator that attacks aphids
- 9 Insecticide with a 7 day withholding period

## DOWN

- 1 Grub that can cause servere defoliation in lupins, canola and a wide range of broadleaf crops and pasture. HINT: It has a distinctive movement pattern
- 2 Common Aphid of Canola that are covered with a thick, whitish powder
- 3 Grub that attacks Canola crops
- 8 A green flying predator with prominent eyes

