

GRDC**Grains
Research &
Development
Corporation**www.grdc.com.au**MEDIA
RELEASE****20 January, 2015**

Ryegrass ergot can have a silver lining for southern Western Australian growers in 2015

While rainfall totalling over 200 mm across southern Western Australia in late spring created widespread ryegrass ergot problems at harvest it could provide a real boon for farmers. Strict grain receival standards limiting the amount of ergot forced many farmers to grade grain before delivery resulting in remnant heaps of weed seeds.

“Ergot contamination presents growers with a valuable opportunity as many large heaps of ergot and weed seeds such as ryegrass, brome grass and wild radish sit in the corners of paddocks around their farms,” says Andrew Storrie, executive officer of the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group. “These heaps give farmers a chance to test for herbicide susceptibility before the coming season.”

“Currently only a small percentage of growers test weeds for herbicide susceptibility and the gradings from ryegrass ergot presents them with a ready source of seed to see which of their herbicides still works,” stated Mr Storrie, “We have found that one of the reasons for low levels of testing is that growers are too busy to collect samples before or at harvest so this is a chance not to be missed.”

Growers need to know which herbicides are still effective on their major weeds so testing your most commonly used herbicides is a good start. Further advice on which herbicides to get tested should be done with your adviser and the testing service that you plan to use.

“Knowing if your herbicides still work is particularly important if you are a fan of ‘dry seeding’, said Mr Storrie. “With dry seeding, if your post emergent herbicides don’t work, you had better make sure you are seeding into weed-free paddocks.”

Surveys in Western Australia over the past two years have shown over 40 per cent of paddocks tested have some level of glyphosate resistance.

www.grdc.com.au

“This indicates we are close to a tipping point when glyphosate resistance is likely to start becoming obvious in cropping paddocks,” said Mr Storrie. “Knowledge is power, so now is the time to find out what you are dealing with.”

The Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group is supported by the Grains Research & Development Corporation, and key R&D based crop protection companies with an interest in the sustainability of glyphosate. Their website has a range of information about glyphosate resistance including a register of glyphosate resistant weed populations and guides and links for management of glyphosate resistance in different crops and management situations.

Go to: www.glyphosateresistance.org.au for more information.

For information on herbicide sustainability visit the *WeedSmart* information hub at www.weedsmart.org.au

GRDC Project Code: ARN00001

Contact:
Andrew Storrie
AGSWG
(08) 9842-3598
0428 423 577
Twitter: @AgronomoOz
andrew@agronomo.com.au

For more information see Paddock Practices <http://www.grdc.com.au/Media-Centre/Media-News/West/2015/01/Time-to-test-the-susceptibility-of-escapee-weed-seeds>