

SMART HERBICIDE MANAGEMENT CAN DOUBLE WHEAT YIELD

LATEST RESEARCH SHOWS POSITIVE EFFECTS OF CERTAIN HERBICIDES ON BENEFICIAL SOIL MICROBES, SOIL CARBON AND YIELD

Results of a large scale two year trial into the effect of a range of pre-emergent herbicides on beneficial soil microbes is generating huge interest in the agricultural industry.

Commissioned by Western Mineral Fertilisers (WMF) and conducted by independent research organisation Living Farm Ag Research and Consultancy, the results are being hailed as a significant breakthrough, according to WMF senior microbiologist Paul Storer.

“This ground breaking trial shows both the *very positive* and *very negative impacts* that different herbicides can have on beneficial soil biology *and* consequently yield” he said.

‘The Pingelly trial showed that the 2010 wheat yield varied (in a very poor rainfall growing season) from 0.837t/ha to nearly 1.3 t/ha depending upon the herbicide cocktail and dose rate. In 2011, the wheat yield varied from 2.645t/ha to 5.092 t/ha - a most significant outcome’.

“The take home message is that herbicide use plays a significant management role in farming systems – and not just on weeds. These herbicide cocktails can either dramatically increase or decrease soil microbial biomass as well as soil Carbon and nutrient availability - **and this is directly related to yield and farm profit**” Paul said.

WMF senior agronomist Burt Naude said “herbicide use is viewed as **essential**, and dealing with weeds and protecting crops and pasture has always been a balancing act and a dilemma for farmers”.

“This trial has greatly improved our understanding of the mechanisms of herbicides, their effect on beneficial soil biology and the significant effect on yield, soil health and profit in broadacre’ said Burt.

The full details of this ongoing trial and other research trials will be presented at WMF’s upcoming Annual Conference at Northam on Tuesday 14th February 2012, and will also be covered at the various Road Show Seminars across Western Australia.

Living Farm’s Richard Devlin, who conducted the herbicide trial, will be one of the guest speakers at the Conference.

“In 2010 and again in 2011 we ran the herbicide trial at Pingelly, and we saw some fantastic results” he said. “All growers and agronomists will be able to take away some strong messages from this data”.

“In 2010 seven commonly used pre-emergent herbicides were tested in a latin square (“checkerboard”) type arrangement, and the same herbicides were overlaid on exactly the same plots in 2011. We have gathered a lot of information - agronomically we are starting to see a lot of weed selection in the plots and we are also seeing the cumulative residual effects of double rates of herbicides year on year” Richard said.

For more information about the 2012 Northam Conference and Regional Road Show go to: www.wmf1.com, or phone 9851-7222. Among the many excellent guest speakers, presentations will also be delivered by Dr Angelo Loi (DAFWA), Charlie Engelbogen (BASF), Paul Storer (WMF), Burt Naude (WMF).

In late 2010, WMF won the prestigious Innovation Excellence Award at the Western Australian Industry and Export Awards.





2012 Conference - Northam

Nitrogen and Herbicide Management - their beneficial impact on Soil Health, Soil Biology and Farm Profit.

Tuesday 14th February
9am to 4pm

Northam Country Club

Morning Tea and Lunch
provided

Cost \$35 per head.
Bookings Essential
please call 9851 7222

Western Mineral Fertilisers

Western Mineral Fertilisers Regional Road Show Seminar Series

Northampton

Monday 6th February
1pm to 4pm

Narembeen

Monday 20th February
1pm to 4pm

Ongerup

Monday 27th February
1pm to 4pm

Gingin

Tuesday 6th March
9am to 12pm

Morawa

Tuesday 7th February
9am to 12pm

Lake Grace

Tuesday 21st February
9am to 12pm

Esperance

Tuesday 28th February
1pm to 4pm

Pinjarra

Monday 12th March
9am to 12pm

Moora

Monday 13th February
1pm to 4pm

Katanning

Tuesday 21st February
2pm to 5pm

Ravensthorpe

Wednesday 29th February
9am to 12pm

Bunbury

Monday 12th March
2pm to 5pm

Manjimup

Tuesday 13th March
9am to 12pm

This series of Western Mineral Fertilisers Regional Road Show Seminars are free and will feature various speakers from the Northam conference.

For venue details and to RSVP – please call 9851-7222

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Road Show seminar attending (no cost): _____

of people attending: _____

Northam conference (\$35 per person) # of people attending: _____

Please tick form of payment for conference:

Direct Debit Cheque

If paying by cheque please attach to RSVP and make Payable to :-

Western Mineral Fertilisers

And post to

Western Mineral Fertilisers
PO Box 2, Tenterden WA 6322

If paying by Direct Debit

WMF Account :

BSB : 633 000

Account # : 135 121465