



DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR HIGH YIELD AND HIGH PROFIT TRITACALE

This draft agronomic program has been developed from the results of the GRDC funded project “Improving Winter Cropping Systems in the Riverine Plains” which commenced in July 2005.

The draft protocol for high yield and high profit tritacale is as follows:

- Select a paddock
 - That is in the typical place in the rotation where tritacale is grown (eg after wheat)
 - Has moderate to high levels of Phosphate (P), Sulphur (S), Potassium (K) and other nutrients.

A recent soil test (1-3 years old) should be used to determine this. Ensure that other elements are not deficient by applying gypsum and other ameliorants as recommended in the soil test.

- Select Koscuisko as it has the highest yield capacity or Speedie for late sowing.
- Use 90-100 kg/ha of seed.
- Sow mid season varieties early (early to mid May) except in areas of high frost risk.
- Ensure ideal weed control while maintaining the chemical rotation. Use products that have minimum adverse impact on yield.
- Sow with high rates of phosphate (20-25 kg/ha) and a small amount of N (10-15 kg/ha). The most popular choices will be 90-110 kg/ha of MAP or 100-120 kg/ha of DAP.
- Aim is to produce a crop with 100-130 tillers/m² for every t/ha of yield target (500-600 tillers/m² for a 5 t/ha yield target).
- Conduct a Deep Soil Nitrogen (DSN) test at 3-5 leaf stage to determine the level of soil N.
- Check the seasonal forecast in late July and apply additional N to achieve the yield target. Apply up to 80 kg/ha of N (assuming a normal DSN of about 60 kg/ha) in mid August to achieve a 5 t/ha yield target.
- Adjust the yield target and N rate in late August based on the August rainfall.
- Apply 500 ml/ha of Bayleton (or other similar Triademefon product) at Z31-39 (mid August to late September) for leaf disease control. Other fungicides may also be successfully used.