

## At a Glance...

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### GORST RURAL

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With just over 215mm of rainfall the season, we wind up in the 'Goldilocks' position, not too wet, not too dry. Crops seem to be germinating well albeit with some mice, slug or RLEM pressure in some spots. Pre emergents seem to be working well, including the new Overwatch, even if there is slightly more crop effect. (Fig 1 &2 show some varying effects of Overwatch).



Fig 1; Overwatch Bleaching on Barley.



Fig 2; Overwatch control of Ryegrass (Pink) in IBS Wheat.

### FIELD SERVICES TEAM

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June is a busy month, ensuring new crops are protected from pests & Weeds. Read on for some good articles on boom decontamination, getting the best out of your grass control, use of strategic N and GA to grow more feed, and grazing young pastures.

Please start considering End Of FY requirements early so we can have product on hand and booked out as you require. We have some great fencing deals and other items for your end of June planning. Please note some products especially any steel based items are getting harder to procure, and price rises imminent. If you require any crop inputs to be booked out let us know so we can plan accordingly.

### **Inputs Update**

Thanks to all during this sowing season for your patience, even the best planning has seen some delays in fert shipments, slug bait and even Sakura. Hopefully, we kept most of you going and the inconvenience minor. As we head into the post-emergent stage, a quick update;

- Clethodim supplies OK, we have Sumitomo Status and UPL Select Extra.
- Haloxyfop good supply - we have Corteva verdict 520 & Kenso Intervix, Intercept and Spark in good supply.

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- Crucial & Roundup Ready Plantshield available for RR applications,
- Ammonium Sulphate available in bagged or liquid (Shuttle) form,
- Slug Bait (Cheap Stuff) is trickling through, talk to us about your requirements.

There is market commentary around glyphosate pricing with some short term spikes (next 2-3 months). If you have some interest in taking a position on some product let us know

### Fertiliser

Urea seems to be on a run now with an expectation that most domestic suppliers and retailers have taken a position. Despite some of the cropping belt dry outlook for immediate Urea still seems strong.

Confirmation of extra tonnes for Indian Tender has firmed up manufacturers pricing.

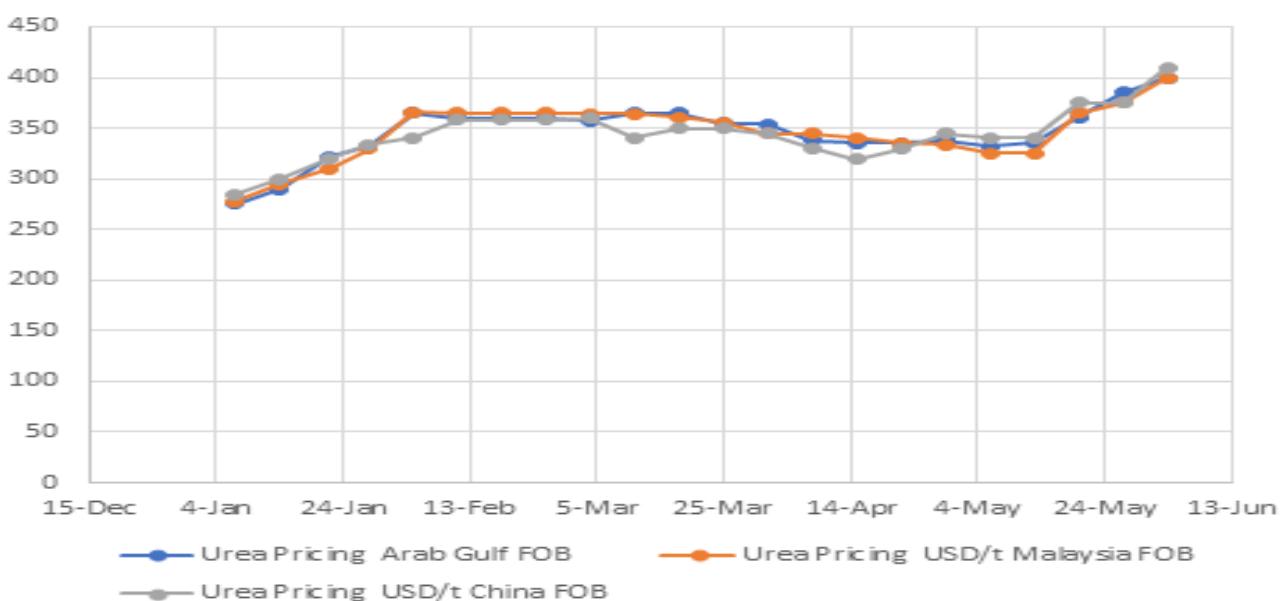
Most urea is coming from the Middle East with China having low inventory, late domestic demand, problems with volatile feedstocks (a lack of coal as an energy source) and a lack of desire to enter the Indian market.

China produces approx. 30% of the worlds urea, the Middle East 30-32%.

An FOB price of \$ 410/t USD x currency at 0.78c AUD x Sea Freight at \$ 70/t plus some importer margin, gives an new implied price of \$ 670-680/t

Call us now to discuss your requirements.

Indicative Urea Pricing \$USD/t FOB



### Spreading

Our spreader is available for any SLAM, Potash or Urea work early on in the crop stage. For any queries or bookings talk to Mick at Willaura.

### Early Crop Nutrition

Now that crops are starting to establish and grow it is important they are receiving their required nutrients.

While most crops will have had starter fertiliser at sowing, additional fertiliser during crop growth may need to be applied to meet Macro and Micro nutrient demand from the plant.

**Macro-Nutrients**— It is useful to use soil tests to diagnose if there are any macro nutrient deficiencies. Liebig's law of the minimum. There must be sufficient plant-available N to get a response to P and there must be sufficient P for S and or K responses to occur.

- **Nitrogen**— We should be applying N early (stem elongation) for yield this is when the plant is most actively growing and has a high requirement for N, then apply N later at head emergence for grain protein. If you see older parts of the plant go pale green or yellow then there may be an N deficiency.
- **Phosphorus**— Plants with this limiting nutrient are stunted, dark green plants with short, erect leaves and stout stems that often develop orange, red or purplish discolouration.
- **Potassium**—Young plants grow very slowly and are often stunted. In older plants the lower leaves show

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- scorching on margins with yellow to brown margins towards the leaf tips.
- **Sulphur**—Young plants are pale green or yellow with only limited stunting, with the lower leaves remaining green (unlike N deficiency).

**Micro-Nutrients**—More useful to use tissue tests to diagnose if there are any micro nutrient deficiencies. When tissue testing, to get a more accurate result you should test an area with good crop nutrition against the area of the crop you suspect has a nutrient deficiency. For cereals tissue test at early tillering, for bean's stem at elongation, for pasture 3-4 leaf stage, and Canola 4-6 leaf stage. Micronutrient deficiencies are best determined by looking at the overall situation, including; region, soil type, season, crop, and past fertiliser management.

Crops that are most susceptible to each micro-nutrient include:

- **Boron** – legumes and brassicas, they will appear to have a saw tooth effect on younger leaves.
- **Copper** – wheat, barley and lucerne. If this nutrient is deficient the plant will shows signs of wilting despite there being adequate water supply.
- **Iron** – some legumes, symptoms of this deficiency show new leaves have striping, with alternate yellow and green stripes down the length of the leaf.
- **Manganese** – oats and legumes. Symptoms include, new leaves are pale compared with old leaves and appear limp, with some withering of new shoots.
- **Molybdenum** – brassicas and legumes, because Mo is important for nitrate reductase activity in the plant, it has similar deficiency symptoms to N. Other symptoms are plants appear unthrifty and water-stressed.
- **Zinc** – oats, wheat and barley. This deficiency can be identified by plants being stunted with short, thin stems and usually pale green leaves.



If tissue testing results show a deficiency to one of the micro-nutrients and you are applying fertiliser to treat this deficiency. You can leave a small strip untreated to see if there is a visual response to the fertiliser.

For more information about deficiencies of nutrients in crops please talk to your Gorst Rural Agronomists.

### Clethodim and frost, a bad combination.

Frosts are a common weather event in our area. Often frost events coincide with critical clethodim applications which can significantly reduce their efficacy, especially on grassweeds. With many populations of ryegrass developing resistance to the valuable active ingredient clethodim we need to have everything working in our favour.

When temperatures drop below the ideal temperature levels for plants, their physiology slows down and continues to decrease with declining temperatures. When plants experience frost conditions the plant has slowed down to the point Clethodim efficacy is affected. For Clethodim to work effectively the herbicide needs to be transported to the plants growing tips and shoots. Thus, if the plant physiology has slowed down, the herbicide may work too slowly within the plant and likely breakdown to the point where it has reduced effectiveness.

GRDC trials examined the effects of frosts on Clethodim treatment with annual ryegrass. The treatments were under controlled conditions using a frost chamber to mimic a frost event. Seedlings at the 3-leaf stage were sprayed with increasing rates of clethodim at midday, either before or after exposure to 3 consecutive nights of a -20C frost treatment.

Key points from the GRDC frost trial:

- Frost has been known reduce clethodim effectiveness of resistant ryegrass at rates as high as 4L per Ha (Figure 1).
- Cold weather has been reported to have an adverse effect on efficacy. Spraying crops with clethodim within days of a frost occurrence hinders the control of ryegrass due to an inversion layer forming.
- Reduction of clethodim activity by cold temperatures could be a factor in the variable response of clethodim in the field in late winter.

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Management strategies and considerations for clethodim application are as follows:

- In the presence of resistance to clethodim, applying the product to smaller annual ryegrass plants and under warmer conditions improves control.
- Spray early when ryegrass is small and weather temperatures are more likely to be warmer.
- Use a weather cold front to your advantage - wait until there is cloud cover as this reduces the chance of frosty conditions overnight.
- Wait for a couple of days after a frost event to apply clethodim to actively growing ryegrass. (A good management tactic for clethodim resistant ryegrass in break crops is to use a pre-emergent herbicide followed by a mixture of clethodim plus butroxydim, on small ryegrass plants.)
- Hard water affects the performance of clethodim so when possible, clean rainwater should be used. When hard water is unavoidable the addition of ammonium sulphate, which is relatively inexpensive, can aid herbicide uptake and improve clethodim efficacy.

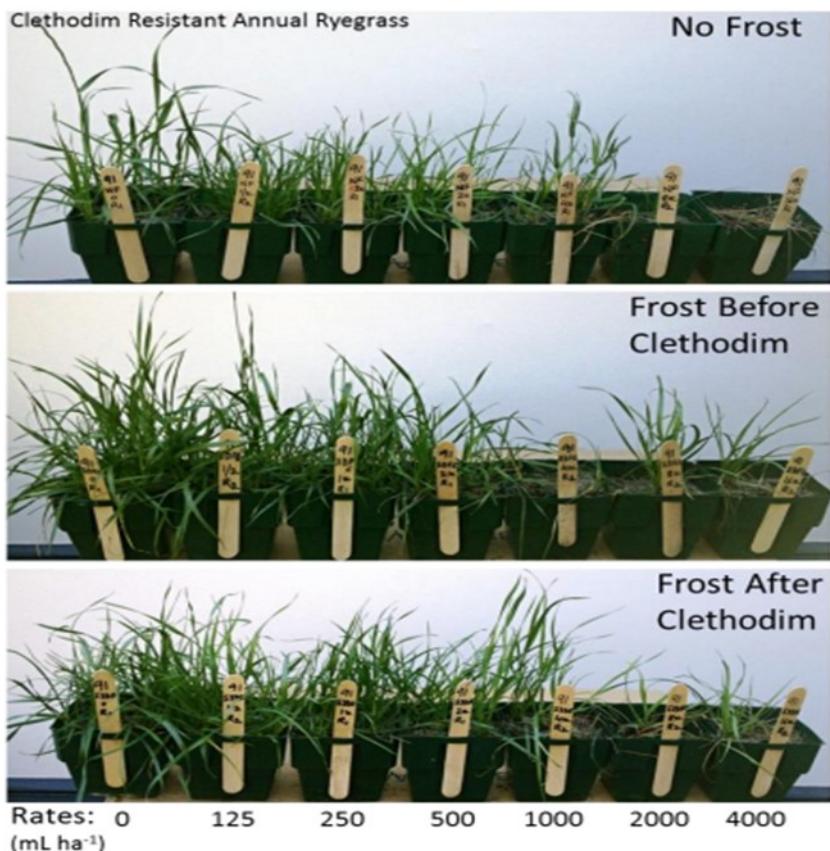


Figure 1. Growth of clethodim resistant annual ryegrass populations following clethodim treatment with 3 simulated nights of frost prior to or post application. Control plants were not subjected to frost. Plant survival was assessed 28 days after completion of frost treatment.

**We only get one shot per year so make it count and avoid the frosts!**

### Management of new pastures

Good pasture management relies on growers being both proactive and responsive throughout the establishment phase as well as moving into the maintenance phase of any new pasture. As is the case with most things, intervening early and nipping potential issues and drawbacks in the bud will generally make for a smoother operation moving forward. This includes testing and taking the necessary steps to ensure that the soil make-up (i.e. Salinity, texture & pH) and fertility are at optimum levels for new pastures to thrive. Alternately, a more reactive approach is often required in the case of other potential threats to new pastures such as; weeds, insects and other pests which can affect their ability to get the start that they need. The signs of these stressors are not always so clearly visible until a significant amount of damage may have already been done. It is especially important to monitor newly sown areas closely and regularly, and to act quickly in managing these issues so that the impact can be limited as much as possible.

There are a number of additional factors affecting establishment and/or persistence of pastures that should be taken into consideration during pasture selection in order to ensure that it will suit the grower's individual circumstances, so that the venture is as viable and as economical as possible. These include:

- Climatic factors such as temperature and rainfall.
- Prevalence of fungal, viral or bacterial plant disease in the area where the pasture is to be grown.
- The grazing tolerance and palatability of the variety.
- The grower's individual needs such as feed requirements, planned stocking rates/grazing pressure, amount and duration of paddock rest periods.

Once new pastures are up and running it is still important that they are monitored frequently and thoroughly so that any needs or deficiencies that arise can be met and supplemented effectively in a timely manner, ensuring

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their ongoing success.

Grazing management of pastures, particularly those in their first season, should be planned and executed with care. It is important for growers to consider the planned frequency and intensity with which their pastures will be grazed against plant production/regrowth rates right from before the very first introduction of stock.

Taking these factors into account are vital in order to ensure that feed budgets are fulfilled, that stock utilise feed efficiently to meet the grower's desired targets and that plants are able to adequately recover to continue to provide quality nutrition well into the future.

Please talk to your Gorst Rural Agronomist about managing your new pastures effectively.



### Parasites

Slugs are in abundance this year. We have all seen so many of them in our paddocks and eating our crops.

Have you noticed any parasites in your sheep as well?

Worms are certainly about this year as well and there are not any signs of them leaving soon. With the moderate temperatures and rainfall through the summer, a green bridge was created, and some parasites were able to survive. With worms having such a major impact of livestock and profitability of your flock it is important to monitor them. Figures from Zoetis Australia's website state that internal parasites cost the industry \$430 million dollars a year.

There are several ways to help reduce the cost of internal parasites on your farm.

Conducting worm egg counts helps to identify the level of internal burden on the animal. Pre lambing, weaning and the start of summer are good times to get counts conducted as a rule of thumb.

Worm egg counts can be done at Gorst rural!

Knowing the level of worm burden in your sheep will help you determine when to drench.

Rotating drenches is important to ensure that you do not create resistance in the worms.

Grazing management, including selecting the lowest burdened paddock for most prone stock e.g. weaners, maidens, oldest ewes.

To help figure out if a pasture carries a high worm burden a few things need to be considered such as:

- The worm egg counts for the mob in the paddock.
- Length of pasture.
- The paddock history is also important. Paddocks cut for hay or silage or recently cropped will generally have a lower worm burden.

Nutrition is also a major piece of the puzzle. With a good plane of nutrition through improved pastures or

supplementary feeding, sheep will generally maintain production, even if they have a slight worm challenge.

To maintain a productive flock, make sure you take care of the internal factors as well.

For worm egg counts please contact Katie at Lake Bolac, or any store manager.



### Are you bogged mate?

Gorst rural in partnership with "Are you bogged?" and "Let's Talk" are hosting an evening on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October to raise awareness for mental health in rural towns. We are hosting a competition for the best photo and caption of bogged vehicles. To enter please send your photos and caption to [katie@gorstrural.com.au](mailto:katie@gorstrural.com.au). There will be more details of the event to come so stay posted!!



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### 110 & 1000L containers being ‘under volume’ according to marks on drum.

Did you know each and every 20L, 110L drum and 1000L ‘shuttle’ product Nufarm Australia supplies goes through a stringent quality control (QC) process touching multiple steps of the manufacture process?

And did you know their 110L drums and 1000L ‘shuttles’ (IBCs) products are filled based on weight, and checked against specific gravity – a measure of density? (Prior to testing the product is cooled to 20 degrees to remove temperature effects on volume.) IBC bladders can expand and contract leaving the external facing numerical markers inaccurate measures of true volume on Litres.

Once an IBC of the product is filled, the product is under the 1000L numerical marker from the supplier. Once the product is cooled, the level will slightly reduce further. This IBC was then weighed at 1231Kgs, resulting in a total of 1001.6Litres. More than the 1000L however still under the supplier’s marker.

#### What does this mean for our customers?

Nufarm Australia is engaging with the IBC supplier to attempt to remove the numerical markers on the bladders to avoid confusion.

In the meantime, we recommend pumping into a measuring tank or using flow meters to ensure accurate use and calculations of our products.



### Decontamination of Boom sprays

After a long sowing period, the chemical residues of those pre-emergent and knockdown brews can accumulate at the bottom of the boom spray tank and in blind spots of the sprayer such as the hoses, fittings, and other plumbing. These residues can not only drastically increase your chances of crop damage, but also potentially antagonize and interact with future tank mixes if they are not removed accordingly.

In particular, at this time of year when we are transitioning from pre-emergent applications to post-emergent applications with selective herbicides, and changing between crops, damage can occur or be stunted from the previous tank sprayed. When put into perspective the time and cost spent on decontaminating your spray rig is very low when compared to the potential losses that could occur from crop damage and is just good practice, plain and simple.

The majority of chemical labels these days contain decontamination instructions from the manufacturer on best practice to remove their product from spray equipment. If there are no label instructions, there are many fact sheets by the GRDC on the most affective detergents to use to remove various chemical residues. There are also many boom cleaning detergents available off the shelf, with Gorst’s favourite being “All Clear”. These detergents have a chlorine and alkali-base which are specifically formulated for the cleaning your boom spray.

#### 3 Steps to Decontaminating Your Boom:

1. Drain your tank and refill with clean, fresh water. Run water through lines and rinse nozzles by spraying fresh water through one section at a time, for 5 minutes at a time, decreasing and increasing your pressure to thoroughly flush the line. While doing this process, make sure the boom taps and chemical hopper taps are turned on and off, and that the pressure gauge lines are disconnected and allowed to flush. Then, remove the filter screens, remove residue off them, clean thoroughly, inspect their condition and then reinstall. Repeat this process 3 times.
2. Fill your tank to 1/3 of its capacity and add your boom cleaner detergent (preferably ‘All Clear’). Flush the detergent through the boom following the process described in step 1. If possible, allow the detergent to stay charged in the lines for at least 30 minutes, but for best results, leave the boom charged overnight.
3. Repeat step 1 using fresh water to ensure the detergent is removed from your boom spray.

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## JUNE FENCING PROMO:

Gorst Rural would like to offer you the chance to get your fencing needs sorted and to go in the draw to win one of **5 x JBL charge 4 blue tooth speakers**. If you order Waratah products you can enter the Waratah reward program. Also if you order GALMAX range you can receive \$50 Akubra gift cards. Please contact your local Gorst Rural store for more information.



## ORDER FORM

TRADING NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>QTY</u>
TYEASY 2.5mm	1500m		STOCK LOCK 5/70/30	200m	
GAL MAX 2.5mm	1500m		STOCK LOCK 6/70/30	200m	
FLEXIBEL 2.5mm	1500m		STOCK LOCK 7/90/30	200m	
PLAIN WIRE 2.8	1500m		STOCK LOCK 8/90/30	200m	
SOFT WIRE 3.15	750m		STOCK LOCK 8/90/15	100m	
SOFT WIRE 4MM	750m		GAL MAX 6/70/30	200m	
LIFE WIRE BARB 1.8mm	500m		GAL MAX 7/90/30	200m	
GAL MAX BARB 1.8mm	500m		GAL MAX 8/90/30	200m	
IOWA BARB STANDARD GAL	400m		GAL MAX 8/90/15	100m	
IOWA BARB LIFE WIRE 2.5mm	400m		STOCK SAFE T 6/70/30	200m	
			STOCK SAFE T 7/90/30	200m	
<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SIZE</u>		<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	
STAPLES	5kg		GATE VERTICAL BRACE	10F	
STAPLES	10kg		GATE VERTICAL BRACE	12F	
GRIPPLES	MEDIUM		GATE VERTICAL BRACE	14F	
GRIPPLES	LARGE		GATE VERTICAL BRACE	16F	
TIE WIRE	2.5MMX80M		GATE N STAY	10F	
TIE WIRE	2MMX120M		GATE N STAY	12F	
TIE WIRE	2.5MMX1500M		GATE N STAY	14F	
RING FASTENERS	1000PK		GATE N STAY	16F	
<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	-	<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	
PINE POST 4-5	6F		END ASSEMBLY		
PINE POST 5-6	6F		ADJUSTER STAY		
CREO POST 4-5	6F		<b>OTHER ITEMS REQUIRED:</b>		
CREO POST 5-6	6F				
JIO POST	165CM				
GAL EXTREME POST	165CM				
AUSTRAL GAL POST	165CM				
JIO MAXY	180CM				
PINE STRAINER 6-7	8F				
PINE STRAINER 7-8	8F				
PINE STRAINER 8-10	8F				

Email: [admin@gorstrural.com.au](mailto:admin@gorstrural.com.au) or fax / drop into your local store.