



# Agri Talk

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June 2022

## At a Glance...

- Cam's Update.
- Broadleaf Control in Cereals .
- Decontamination of Boom sprays.
- Filling in the winter feed gap with Gibberellic Acid & Nitrogen Fertiliser.
- Hypomagnesemia (Grass tetany) & Hypocalcaemia.
- Pink Up Rurally (see attached flyer).



### GORST RURAL

Lake Bolac  
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Skipton  
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Tatyoon  
P 5354 0585 F 5354 0571  
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### FIELD SERVICES TEAM

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We enter winter a bit on the drier side, but a relatively hassle free seeding period. Westmere rainfall records — “whow” we have had 92mm for March-April- May, compared with 124mm in 2021 or 140mm in 2020. Pasture growth has slowed down and even some problems with closely grazed paddocks and staggers. Don't forget if you have any livestock production issues arrange an appointment with our Senior Livestock Production Advisor—Robbie Neale.

A reminder we will be closed Saturday 11th June and Monday 13th June for Queens Birthday to give our staff a well earned break. Please plan ahead with any requirements you may need.

**Returns:** If you need to return any products from sowing, please get onto sooner rather than later so we can use elsewhere if possible. Give us a ring or to discuss— please ensure goods are in a clean, presentable and saleable condition for return. Please note we do not accept returns on seed, inoculant and vaccine as we cannot vouch for their storage conditions and product viability.

**Chep Deposits & Returnable Drums**— the world is short on pallets and drums at the moment, when you get a chance, please return to be reused.

**EOFY Deals**—We have put together some offers for those of you who may wish to purchase fencing, field bins, stock handling equipment before the end of June. We also have some fertiliser and ag chem available if you wish to purchase this pre EOFY. Please consider your requirements earlier in the month so we can get them organised, processed and delivered before the end of month.

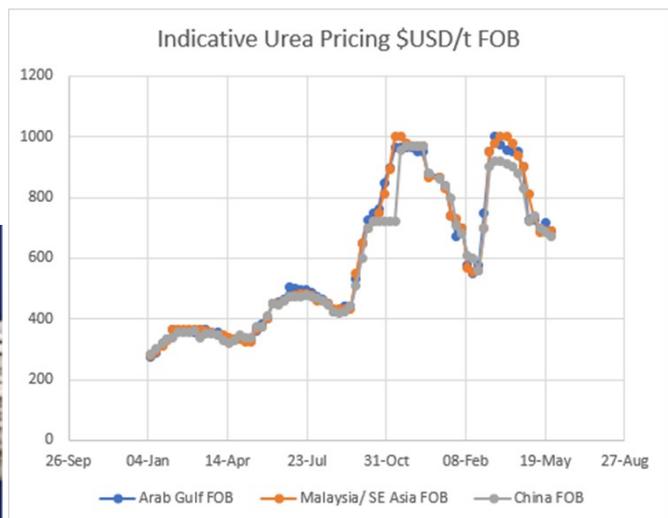
### **Inputs Update**

**Logistics**—As a general comment international shipping and freight rates are extremely disrupted at the moment, so from time to time whole product lines will be unavailable. On a domestic front, warehousing and logistics are a real issue. Simple freight moves around Melbourne or back that would normally be 24 hours are now 3-4 days. Many warehouses are unable to tell you where things are up to and the level of absenteeism also means it maybe many days before they have drivers to deliver. Please bear with us and we try & sort it out but is definitely not business as normal!

**Urea**—The international and domestic markets are very unsettled at the moment with international suppliers not reacting to Indian tenders and tonnes as expected. The Middle East and Asian suppliers seem comfortable with supply & manufacturing, and buyers hanging back for the lure of cheaper pricing. Energy pricing seems to be easing, talks starting to happen with Russia and even talk of Chinese exports, so we are seeing more of a balanced market.

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However, the Australian market might be tight for June tonnes- as everyone hangs back for cheaper pricing. It will swing between how much cropping markets in NSW are too wet, vs how much is too dry in N Vic & SA. We do have tonnes for immediate delivery, talk to our friendly fert team about your requirements to come up with the best strategy. It is an incredibly volatile market and information and pricing is changing hourly. Watch this space ! We also have good supplies of SLAM, Gran Am , Muriate of Potash and also MAP & SSP should you require.



### Ag Chem—Most post em

requirements are OK at this stage although we are experiencing some difficulties with Mateno, we hope to have all product in your shed by the 1-2 leaf stage it needs to be applied.

Clethodim & Haloxyfop supplies are OK, Lontrel is OK (although varying brands with varying availabilities).

Slug Bait continues to be tight with the rest of Australia just learning about the slimy creatures. We have limited supplies again talk to us if you need more.

Atlantis, Rexade & Paradigm Ok at this stage, there have been some delays but back on track.

Agritone, Tigrex and AgTryne type products— supply is OK.

Premium fungicides will be tight Including Miravis Star, Aviator Xpro and Elatus Ace, start thinking forward requirements and let us know.

General fungicides such as Soprano, Opus, Opera, Prosaro, Radial, Veritas etc should be OK at this stage

### Fertiliser Spreader

AI currently has the MAN available for spreading MOP, Urea (24m Swath) SOA and SSP. We can also offer the Kenworth truck & trailer for on farm drops. If you are getting behind in your own spreading and need a hand to catch up book in with Mick at Willaura 5354 1251.



### Broadleaf Control in Cereals

Now that we are well into the season there are lots of long season wheat crops up and tillering. You should be now starting to think of broadleaf sprays. It is important to get onto the weeds early to achieve the best result from your herbicides. Commonly targeted weeds in this district are radish, capeweed, thistles, toad rush, crassula and sorrel. Targeting these common weeds early can be more effective with products like Diflufenican, LVE, MCPA, Lontrel etc. Some newer early broadleaf herbicides on the market are....

**Precept (Gp27,4)** – This product has a wide range of broadleaf weeds it controls especially wild radish. Precept also has good crop safety allowing it to be applied to young cereal crops without slowing crop development.

**Rexade (Gp 2,4)** – Having more than one active in this herbicide allows for some early post-emergent broadleaf and grass weed control. This involves control of some common grass species including, brome grass, phalaris & wild oats. As well as suppression of annual ryegrass, barley grass and silver grass.

**Priority (Gp 4)** – This has just the one active unlike Rexade & Precept but does control 54 broad leaves. You can also go later than Rexade up to Growth stage of 37 instead of 31.

**Intercept on Clearfield Cereals (Gp2)** – This product gives you great control on annual ryegrass, brome grass, capeweed and wild radish. You can spray Intervix on your CI Barley after 5 leaf and 3 leaf stage for CI plus wheat.

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### Mateno Complete grass Control in Wheat (Gp 32, 15,12)

The release of Mateno grass control herbicide in wheat this year is a great new tool in controlling ryegrass early post emergence (EPE). Mateno

Complete combines 3 actives:

1. Diflufenican (commonly used in your broadleaf spray. Depending on your broadleaf pressure this product may be able to save you a broadleaf spray later),
2. Pyroxasulfone (the same active used in Sakura. If you haven't been able to apply Sakura as a pre-em, Mateno then maybe an option), and
3. Aclonifen a new active in the market.

Mateno Complete should be applied when your ryegrass plants are 1-2 leaf @ 750-1L. Any later and Mateno will struggle to control the ryegrass and may increase the rate of resistance.

Please note It's important to rotate herbicide groups whether targeting broadleaf or grass weeds to reduce the chance of developing herbicide resistance. Also, certain herbicide products (like Mateno or legacy MA) now contain more than one herbicide group also help slow down herbicide resistance.

Some spraying tips when applying a broadleaf or grass herbicide in crop ensure...

- Don't spray when the crop is stressed cause by factors such as waterlogging or a frost (more important for grass sprays).
- Consider droplet size and water rate (especially with grass weeds)
- Time of day spraying...avoiding inversion
- Observe plant back and withholding periods
- Compatibility of products mixing
- Make sure you are using the correct adjuvant

Please talk to your agronomist about the best herbicides options for your situation.



### 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. So, 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 is no label instructions, there are many fact sheets by the GRDC on the most affective detergents to used to remove various chemical residues. However, 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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### Filling in the winter feed gap with Gibberellic Acid & Nitrogen Fertiliser

Now that the cold has set in, strategic applications of nitrogen and gibberellic acid (GA) will boost your pastures feed quality! Gibberellic acid is a naturally occurring plant hormone that is used to maximise plant growth during the cooler months. When gibberellic products such as Pro Gibb and Gibbraltrar are applied to a perennial pasture, the hormone increases dry matter accumulation by increasing the plants cell size.



Gibberellic acid treated pasture. Photo: Nufarm



Gibberellic acid untreated pasture. Photo: Nufarm

Pastures that are low in clover content or where clover is still growing thus, using its own nitrogen, will be nitrogen deficient. If deficient, the strategic use of a nitrogen fertiliser will increase productivity. Whereas grasses deficient in nitrogen will generally exhibit yellowing, starting first on the oldest leaves and spreading to the newer growth as deficiency increases. Nitrogen and GA often works best when nitrogen is included (vice versa). However, this does depend heavily on temperature and plant type.

To get a good response use on a perennial pasture base with good fertility and moisture. The best response takes 21-28 days, so it is ideal to spell your pasture during this stage. It can also be incorporated into a broadleaf spray however, it is best to contact your Gorst Rural agronomist before doing so, as there are chemicals that are not compatible.

### Hypomagnesemia (Grass tetany)

It is a metabolic disturbance of magnesium and calcium in an animal. Occurs predominantly in late pregnancy or early lactation when livestock need calcium and magnesium for milk production. Lush green pastures are more prone to causing magnesium deficiencies in stock. In stressful events or where the feed is not supplying enough Mg for the animal supplementation may be required. Magnesium can also be limited if potassium and nitrogen levels are too high or sodium and phosphorous levels are too low.

### Hypocalcaemia

Hypocalcaemia occurs when a reduction of intake and/or absorption occurs in livestock and creates a deficit, if an animal is unable to mobilise enough calcium from their bones quick enough to keep up with the demand. When an animal is at peak lactation their calcium levels are used quickly as they are producing milk for their offspring. Signs for hypocalcaemia include: a rapid onset, muscle weakness, staggering, falling over when stood up, sitting on brisket.

### Key Points:

- Keep nutrition up to stock during late pregnancy and through lactation.
- Supplements in late pregnancy with higher magnesium levels are important.
- While having supplementary calcium is important during lactation, putting it out too early is not ideal for your stock, and can have negative impacts.
- Occurs in both sheep and cattle (both illnesses)

