



Sustainability Snapshots August 2010 - Vol 2 Issue 7

Hi Mike

Welcome to the Mallee Sustainable Farming August edition of "Sustainability Snapshots" with important news and information about dynamic, profitable and sustainable farming across the Mallee.

Crop Monitoring - Rust

Conditions are perfect for rust to raise its ugly head so a reminder goes out to be vigilant and monitor your crops closely not only for hoppers and mice but also for stripe, stem and leaf rust as spring approaches and climatic conditions begin to warm.

Some points to remember:

- Be aware of any reports of rust in your area
- Check the resistance rating of your cereal variety to gain an understanding of how susceptible your crop could be
- Develop a strategy as a pre-emptive measure
- As you're monitoring your crops on a regular basis, be mindful of which growth stage your crop is at in case a fungicide needs to be applied. Remember the flag leaf and the two leaves below the flag are the most important to protect as they contribute the most to yield.
- Stripe rust infection occurs most readily in humid conditions and when night temperatures of 8 - 12 degrees C occur.
- Both stem and leaf rust require warmer conditions with the possibility that they may occur in early spring should the current climatic conditions persist
- Don't procrastinate, seek help immediately from your local agronomist or chemical supplier if you are unsure

Further information related to rust can be found in two GRDC factsheets *Fungicide Timing* and *Rust Management*. Visit www.grdc.com.au/director/events/factsheets?pageNumber=4 Both factsheets are located on this page.

Growing Season Rainfall Figures for the Mallee

The area around Eudunda has certainly had a big month of rainfall during August- nearly as much in a month as Renmark has had all season!

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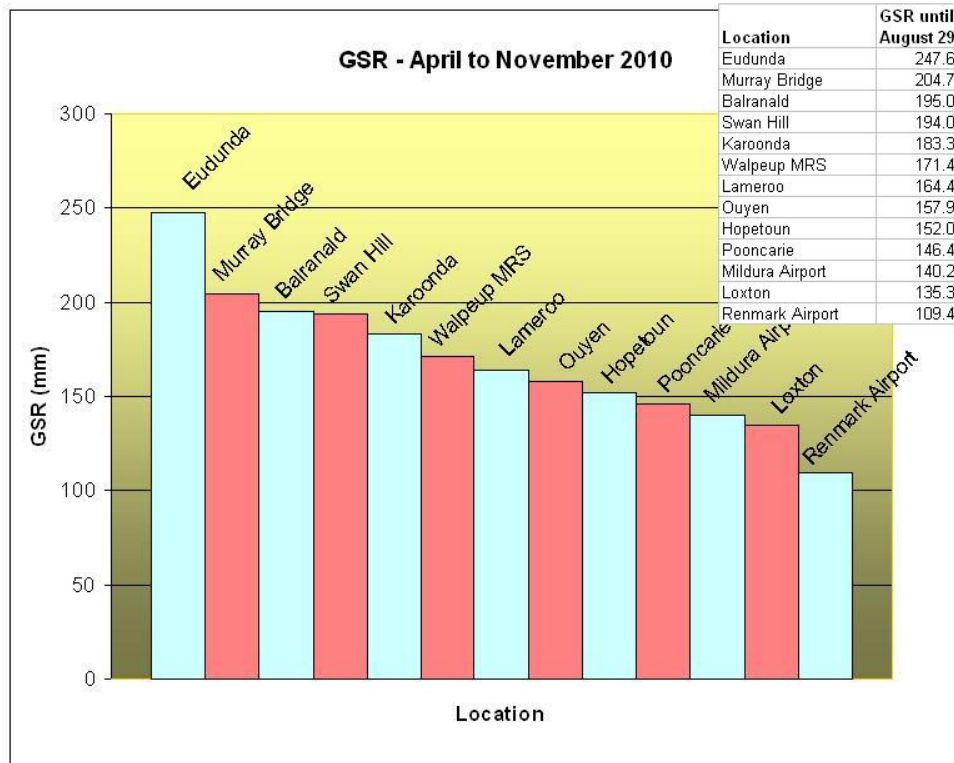
CORPORATE PARTNERS

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Diary Dates

Tuesday **Sept 7th**
Waikerie Field Day

Tuesday **Sept 14th**
Karoonda Trial Walk

Monday **Sept 20th**
Kerribee Crop Walk

Tuesday **Sept 28th**
Mallee Research Day
at Walpeup MRS
Including WUE, NVT
& other Trials & Crop Walks

September Events

Plenty happening over the next few weeks in the Mallee - here is a summary

11th Waikerie Field Day - Tuesday Sept 7th

"Farming Flexibility - Taking Opportunities" 12km South of Waikerie on the Maggea Rd at Alan Buckley's farm. Speakers and their topics include:- **Michael Wells**—How to run Precision Ag trials in the paddock; **Ken Henry**—Had enough of locusts yet?; **Amelia Bartlett**—Another roll of the lice; **Greg Butler**—Alternate fertilisers; **Anthony Whitbread**—Water Use Efficiency; **Darren Arney**—Wheat marketing; **Peter Treloar**—Variability in Mallee paddocks; **Jason Emms**—Perennials shrubs; **George King**—Perennial grasses; **Daniel Schuppan**—Grazing systems; **Tony Rathjen**—Durum wheat & **Gupta VSSR**—Soil biology & rhizoctonia management.

8.45am registration for a 9.30 start. Entry is \$10 for MSF members, \$20 non-members and includes the best field day lunch in the country! Look for the special field day entry/new member offer.

Download the full field day flyer from the MSF website by clicking [here](#)

Karoonda Water Use Efficiency Trial Site Walk Tuesday September 14th

1.30pm - 4.30 pm - .at Pete and Hannah Loller's - Lowaldie. Water use Efficiency speakers and topics include **Rick Llewellyn** – EM mapping & zoning for soil-specific management; **Anthony Whitbread** – Strategies & tactics for soil types, Yield Prophet & sulfur responsiveness; **Neil Witter** – Variable rate fertiliser trial; **Bill Davoren** – Break options; **Gutpa** – Soil biology & Rhizoctonia management & **Michael Moodie** – Other on-farm WUE project activities. Other on site trial speakers and topics are **Kenton Porker** (SARDI) - Barley seed placement, herbicide solutions & varieties; **Rebecca Tonkin** (RSSA) - Claying & delving to improve non-wetting sand performance; **Therese McBeath** (University of Adelaide) - Phosphorus efficiency & uptake; **Richard Saunders & Bob Peake** (RSSA) - Time of sowing by crop variety; **Jake Howie** (SARDI) - Evaluating new strand medics for the Mallee; **Leighton Pearce/Jeremy Nelson** (SAMDBNRM) - Mallee weather station; network & soil water monitoring online. Download the full field day flyer from the MSF website for map and directions by clicking [here](#)

Kerribee Crop Walk Monday September 20th. - Save this date and note it in your diaries. Topics to be discussed on the day include vetch varieties, phosphorus trial, timing of sowing, crop varieties. A discussion to reform the NSW MSF State Reference Committee will also occur. If you are interested in being a part of the NSW MSF State Reference Committee, please advise MSF prior to the walk. Contact Kathryn Kenny on 03 50219102 or 0429 448 097.

Coming events - September/October to be confirmed

Victorian Water Use Efficiency & NVT trials update - Walpeup MRS - Tuesday 28th September

If you don't receive this by email already, please let us know

Precision Agriculture Crop Walks

Locust Update

Check out the links to the latest Locust information at the "Locust Links" page of the MSF website by clicking [here](#)

Grain and Graze 2

A baseline survey is being carried out now by Roberts Evaluation Pty Ltd to find out about the practices of land managers of mixed farming enterprises. Areas such as crop rotation, stocking rates and the use of perennials will be discussed in a 20 minute phone interview. The survey is for the Grain & Graze program which is funded by GRDC who is investing in researching and promoting profitable and resilient practices of mixed cropping and livestock enterprises. An interviewer may call you between now and mid October.

Water Use Efficiency Yield Prophet Crop Reports

The latest Yield Prophet Crop Reports for WUE Focus Paddocks have been uploaded - follow the links from the MSF home page (www.msfp.org.au) or go direct to the summary page by simply clicking [here](#)

MSF is always keen to receive feedback so let us know what you think, or what else you would like to hear about via email admin@msfp.org.au, by calling us on 03 5021 9100 or visit our website at www.msfp.org.au.

Regards

The MSF Team

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