

Kerribee – time of sowing trials

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Key Messages:

- Early sowing allows the crop to yield closer to its full potential than the later sowing
- Wheat showed some varietal differences when sown early

Aim:

The purpose of the trial was purely as a demonstration of time of sowing of cereal crops and cereal varieties. The varieties chosen were varieties that are being grown in the district and retained seed was available from local growers.

Background:

We were looking to demonstrate that timeliness of operations is one of the key factors to profitable grain production. If we can increase yields by optimising sowing time and choosing varieties suited to the area, then we can be more profitable without increasing input costs.

About the Trial:

Trials were sown at James Maynard's property at the MSF Kerribee trial site in New South Wales.

Trials were sown with a 60 foot Horwood Bagshaw Seeder on 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch spacings. Ten varieties were used in the trial:

- 6 varieties of wheat: Gladius, Correll, Derrimut, Young, Drysdale and Yitpi
- 4 varieties of barley: Hindmarsh, Sloop SA, Fleet and Barque

All plots were sown with a seeding rate @ 40kg/Ha with seed dressings on all seed using Dividend @ 1.3L/Ha and BSN Superstrike @ 5L/Ha. This was all applied using a cement mixer to get an even spread of the seed dressings on the seed.

Fertiliser used with the seed was Mega Easy @ 50kg/Ha.

The early sown plots were sprayed on the 7th of May with 1.2L/Ha Powermax and 1.5L/Ha Trifluralin before sowing that day.

The later sown plots were treated the same and sown on the 23rd of June.

All plots had Easy N @ 15L/Ha and Zinc Sulfate @ 1L/Ha applied as a foliar spray.

All plots were harvested on the 20th of December using the Maynards's harvester. Yields were obtained by weighing the grain in a weigh bin supplied by DPI Victoria.

Assessments:

Final yield data was the only measurement collected from the trial.

Results:

The results of the trial are shown in Figure 1 for the early sown plots and Figure 2 for the later sown plots. As this was a large scale demonstration trial, there were no replicates and therefore there is no statistical analysis for the data.

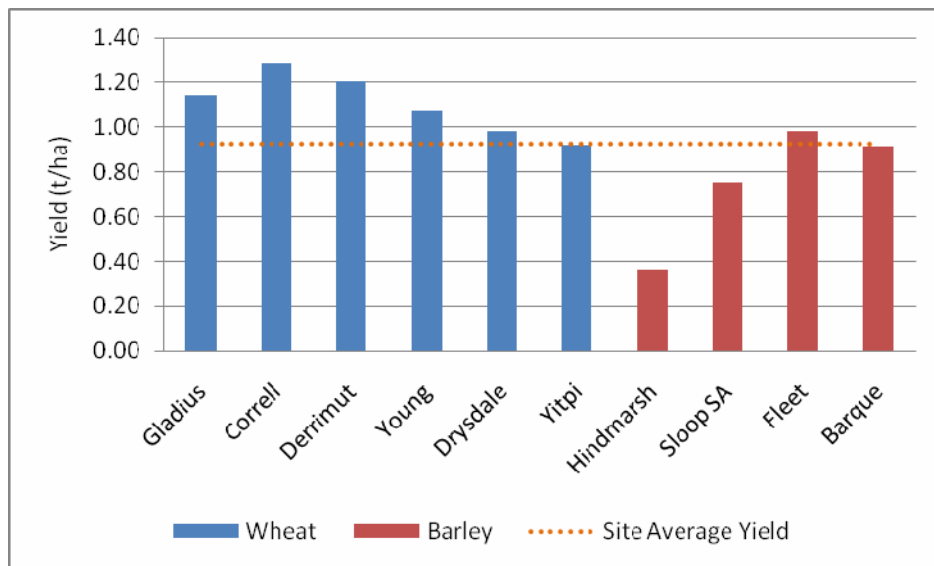


Figure 1. Yield of the early sown plots (sown on 7th of May 2009)

Note: Hindmarsh barley yields suffered from severe pig damage

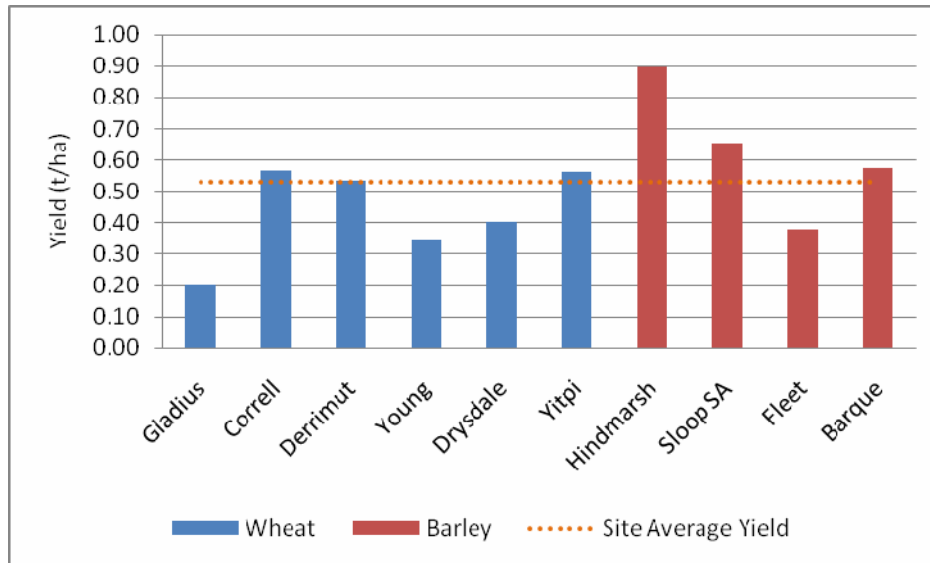


Figure 2. Yield of the late sown plots (sown on the 23rd of June 2009)

Note: Fleet barley yields suffered from chemical damage and Gladius wheat yields were severely affected by spray contamination.

The early sown wheat plots gave us some indication of varietal differences when sown early. The later sown plots aren't as good an indication due to some chemical damage and the early sown barley plots suffered from wild pigs feeding on them.

General observations were that the early sown wheat varieties yielded better than the later sown plots. This could be due to the good moisture received during and after sowing of the early sown plots. As the later sown plots were sown in late June they would not have had any significant rainfall until late September.

The early sown plots would have been well established before we got the extended dry period from July through to the end of September. They would also have handled the hot windy Saturday we experienced in early September.

Results were similar for the barley varieties compared to the wheat varieties. Looking at the results it was safe to say that getting the crop in early allowed the crop to yield closer to its full potential than the later sown plots.

As the plots were not replicated, no conclusive results from this trial resulted. Hopefully we can continue a similar demonstration over the next few years and demonstrate any trends that may emerge.

Who's involved

This trial is supported by:

- Agrivision Consultants
- The Maynard Family

Activity, events and industry participation:

- This trial was presented to farmers at the Keribbee field day August 27 2009.

