



Cotton Catchment
Communities CRC



Queensland
Government
Department of
Primary Industries
and Fisheries

COTTON TALES

Central Queensland

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2008/09

No.05

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Ascochyta blight confirmed in Dawson Callide:

Ascochyta Blight has been confirmed in a few Dawson-Callide chickpea crops.

Identification:

- Lesions usually begin as a pale-green discolouration on leaves and stems.
- On leaves, the round lesions have dark-brown margins and pale-grey sunken centres, while on stems the lesions are oval-shaped, & brown-black in colour.
- Near the centre of the lesions, fruiting bodies called pycnidia develop (appearing as black specks), often in concentric rings.
- These fruiting bodies produce spores, which spread by rain splash to infect other plants.
- Lesions often girdle the stems of the plant, causing them to weaken and subsequently break off.
- Circular lesions also develop on pods; such podsmay produce infected seed.

For pictures see www.pulseaus.com.au or pick up a brochure from QDPI&F in Biloela or Emerald.

Any suspected samples should be placed into a plastic bag and sealed. It should be brought directly to local DPI&F offices at Biloela or Emerald for identification. Avoid unnecessary movements through suspected Ascochyta blight infected crops until the sample has been fully assessed.

Farmers and advisors should take precautions to prevent the spread of *Ascochyta blight* on clothing, footwear and vehicles.

- The recommended protocol is for clothing to be washed, changed or disinfected before entering other chickpea paddocks.
- Extra care should be taken to remove soil & plant material from boots & vehicles.
- Upon leaving an infected chickpea crop, boots and any equipment such as beat sheets, must be washed with 10% Farmcleanse® solution or in a mixture of 10% bleach and 90% water solution or methylated spirits.
- Clothing must be machine-washed in hot water prior to entering another chickpea crop.
- Hands and arms should be washed in warm soapy water or a 10% solution of a disinfectant such as Microshield®.
- The use of heavy-duty plastic bags to cover boots & legs is a common practice when checking crops. These are removed before entering the next crop.
- **Ensure all harvesting equipment is cleaned and inspected.**
- Farmcleanse® can be used to clean equipment.

Growers seeking further information should contact:

- Col Douglas, DPI&F Biloela (0439 875 799)
- Anne Shepherd, DPI&F Emerald (0407 730 476)

IRMS now available

The 2008/2009 Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy for Cotton can be found at www.cottoncrc.org.au. Key changes this year are:

- New Insecticide chemical group 28 rynaxypyr sold as Altacor™ is available all season, with a maximum of 3 sprays in total.
- The abamectin window has been extended to February 15 for Northern, Central and Southern Regions, not Darling Downs.

Seed Treatments

There are a number of Insecticide seed treatment options available. It's worth noting their modes of action for implications with foliar insecticides.

Neonicotinoid group (4A mode of action such as Cruiser®, Amparo®, Gaucho®) – if you use these products as seed dressings and you still have a thrips or aphid problems then the following spray has to be from another mode of action group such as Endosulfan (2A), Diafenthiuron (12B) or Pymetrozine (9A). This is important as all these seed treatments have a highly systemic action.

Mixture of Thiodicarb and Fiprinol (a mixture of a 2C and a 1A mode of action groups such as Super Semevin®) – This allows the use of the neonicotinoids (4A) as foliar sprays after planting. However the use of Fiprinol in the seed dressing, restricts the use of Regent for early season mirids. This treatment does have a lower level of systemic activity.

Carbamate group (1A mode of action such as Temik®) - although not a seed dressing, it is a root absorbed, systemic chemical that continues to give protection to the plant from sap suckers for a long period of time after sowing. Using this group, effectively means you cannot use the Group 1A or 1B chemicals for your following foliar application. However these chemicals are OP's and carbamates which are not likely to be used until very late in the season.

For more information refer to the Cotton pest management guide.

Rodents

Check your winter crops for evidence of rodent damage. There have been a number of reports of fields requiring treatment.

Pesticide Application Management Plans

Looking for an excuse to have a beer with your neighbour? Even though everyone is super busy, take a moment to catch up and share what you are planning on planting for 08/09. In particular, mark on maps where Roundup Flex®, Roundup ready® and other cotton crops are planned. While not as visible as 24D drift, **Glyphosate drift, even onto Roundup ready® past fourth leaf stage can be very damaging!**

Come Clean Go Clean applies no matter what the crop!