

Integrated fertiliser programs way to high yields and quality

Following requests from farmers for a simplified and integrated cropping program for wheat in the 2010 season, consultant chemist and agronomist Mr Ron Elton-Bott of Western Fertiliser Technology Pty Ltd has provided a fertiliser program below. He says that by using grain analysis data published on the Publications page of their company's website www.wftptyltd.com.au, the average amounts of nutrients removed by 3-tons of wheat grain per hectare can be calculated as being:

60 kg Nitrogen	14 grams Copper
12 kg Phosphorus	200 grams Manganese
20 kg Potassium	100 grams Zinc
2 kg Calcium	100 grams Iron
5 kg Magnesium	20 grams Boron
5 kg Sulphur	2 grams Molybdenum
300 grams Sodium	0.2 gram Cobalt

From above, an estimation of the types and amounts of fertilisers needed to achieve around 3 - 4 tons/ha of wheat grain can be made. "This is a nutrient replacement strategy based on grain analysis which has worked very well for farmers".

Farmers who prefer to use a lower input of fertilisers for half the targeted yield, 1.5 to 2-tons per hectare, can follow the same program, but use half the amount of each of the recommended fertilisers given below. "The strategy and timing is as important as the amounts of fertilisers used, which are flexible depending on each farmer's budget. For satisfactory yields and quality, trace elements are as vital as phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium" he said. Mr Elton-Bott welcomes enquiries from farmers for other grain crops such as canola and lupins, and grain samples from paddocks can be posted to their company for analysis at the ChemCentre at Bentley.

Program for wheat:

- # Apply a mixture of 150 kg/ha Dolomite, 150 kg/ha limestone (or limesand) and 150 kg/ha Gypsum to stubbles in March-May as ongoing maintenance of soil.
- # Apply 2 litres/ha Super Trace with Roundup and 50 litres/ha Flexi-N (or 60 kg/ha urea) before sowing.
- # Treat each ton of seed with 5 litres of Super Energy Seed Treatment on the same day of sowing (with optional fungicide).
- # At sowing, apply a granular fertiliser blend under the seed, consisting of 40 kg/ha MAP and 80 kg/ha of Super Potash 1:1.
- # At 5-leaf stage or at early tillering apply 5 litres/ha Super Trace with 20 litres/ha of Flexi-N.

For more details on Super Trace, Super Energy Seed Treatment and grain analysis, call Western Fertiliser Technology Pty Ltd on 0412 912 793 or ah. 08 9456 5297 or email wft_ptyltd@bigpond.com.



Farmers inspecting wheat crop at Kojonup 2009