

Grass-free could bring extra \$480/ha

MOST farmers are aware of the benefits of grass-free farming, but work back in the 1980's by the then Chief Research Scientist with the CSIRO, Dr Albert Rovira, showed that this technology gave increased wheat yields of between 0.6 and 1.2t/ha.

This research is still relevant today and with grain prices of \$400/tonne, those yields translate into a financial return of between \$240 and \$480/ha!

The removal of weed competition in crops had long been a feature of farming, but with the advent of the early "fops" it was possible to go the next step and clean up pastures.

The removal of grasses in pastures removed the host for many soil borne cereal root diseases such as Take-all and Cereal Cyst Nematode, resulting in major yield increases.

The good oil from Dr. Terry's diary

4FARMERS clients are well aware of the ability of Terry Piper to provide the answers to their many problems, but he also had a full life with the Department of Agriculture before 4Farmers.

During this long period, Terry was involved in many research projects, including one that tested the efficacy of the various oils available for adding to herbicides, trialling different types, additives and costs.

"Vegetable and mineral oils were tested, some with wetters and some that were plain and

Dr Rovira stated at the time that "the two reasons given for low grain yields, low and unpredictable rainfall and marginal lands of low fertility, ignored the importance of soils management".

Things have got a lot better since those days, partly by the development of other products, but mainly because the advent of 4Farmers has seen a dramatic reduction in the cost of all farm chemicals.

"4Farmers can offer a range of herbicides, including QPE, Haloxyfop and Clethodim, that can be used as grass killers" said 4Farmers GM, Neil Mortimore, adding, "these all are available at prices that would astound the early researchers.

A call to your local distributor or Terry Piper can give you all the information needed for this important management tool.

cheap, with both well-known brands and anonymous generics" Terry explained, "so our task was to see if extra money or extra additives provided an increase in effectiveness.

"We tried a variety of options in several locations over a couple of years, but differences we noted were either minimal or caused by other factors.

"To summarise the results, it would be fair to say that there was no appreciable difference between any of the various products tested".



A full house! 4Farmers GM, Neil Mortimore, with a selection of grass killers available under the 4Farmers label.

Safe Tralkoxydim

ANNUAL ryegrass and wild oats remain major grass weeds in wheat and barley crops, with 4Farmers Tralkoxydim being one of the newer herbicides used to control them.

4Farmers commissioned Eureka! Ag Research (Vic), an independent agronomy company, to test its product against the major non-generic one, using the label rate and twice the label rate, with the phytotoxicity being assessed 14 and 21 days after treatment.

The result:

"Minor chlorosis was observed on both species 14 days after treatment. 21 days after treatment, symptoms of crop yellowing were greatly reduced and no crop stunting was observed on wheat. No crop yellowing was observed on barley 21DAT". Under the conditions tested there was no observable difference between the two Tralkoxydim formulations".