

## Fungicide use for crop success

Like anything, good planning and strategy will help to provide the best possible outcome. Cereal cropping isn't any different, and fungicides play an important part in that process.

Peter Spencer, Senior Agronomist with IK Caldwell at Cobram in Victoria's north east, explains further.

"The use of cereal fungicides is an important component of any good crop strategy," he said.

"The goal is always to maximise yield potential. So, working with our farmers, we develop strategies for each paddock based on the crop variety and that variety's agronomic package.

"Increasingly, we are incorporating a vital fungicide strategy as part of those paddock plans."

The tendency to grow varieties that are bred for disease resistance has been the norm, with stripe rust the focus in the last few years. However, recently there has been a shift in the status quo.

"We need to be vigilant with new varieties and the resistance status they exhibit. Some varieties have started to succumb to disease and their resistance may not be so effective.

"We have seen this happen with some cereal varieties, exacerbated by the evolution of diseases, such as we've observed with stripe rust.

"Consequently there is greater reliance on the use of cereal fungicides."

IK Caldwell has been closely involved with the development of many cereal fungicides currently on the market. Their work with Nufarm escalated with the introduction of Opus® to the market.

"We started working with Nufarm a number of years back with our trials and testing of Opus before it became commercial. We have also undertaken work that investigates using existing treatments for different diseases in other crop applications," Peter explained.

"At our Barooga Agronomic Trial Site we take various cereal fungicide products from a number of different companies and examine them side by side in the paddock.

"Through this work at the research and development stage, and by understanding fungal diseases, we are more able to manage the particular fungicides. Seeing how they perform in the paddock means we deliver premium advice to farmers."

The effectiveness of cereal fungicides has allowed the retention of some high yielding varieties that had been discarded because of particular disease profiles.

"These varieties can be managed well and cost effectively with strategic fungicide use.

"Cereal fungicides are a must in high production cereal farming."

Nufarm's cereal fungicide range includes Hornet® 500, Opus® 125 and Throttle® 500.

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