

RULES OF THUMB IDENTIFIED FROM LITERATURE



SOWING

Seeding window is between Anzac Day and not beyond the June long weekend - **NSW**

Sow wheat to the depth of a matchbox on its side - **SA**

Only sow after ryegrass seed has germinated - **SA**

Fallow when the growing season gets less than 230 mm of rain, and soil has over 30 mm of stored water - **WA**

Fallow paddocks are lost potential - **SA**



FERTILISATION

Apply 4kg of phosphorous for every tonne of last year's crop - **SA**

Topdress if there is a greater than 5mm rain forecast - **VIC**

N fertiliser at 40-80kg per hectare (N/ha) has been found ideal for most growing conditions - **WA**

Nitrogen fertilizer loss is about 25% in low-medium rainfall, 32% in high rainfall, and 41% in irrigated - **VIC**

Where yields are consistently >2.5 t/ha, N applications can be delayed until stem elongation - **SA**



SOIL HEALTH

Apply 2.5t/ha of lime in about every 10 years - **VIC**

Lime isn't economic unless pH is less than 4.5 or 4.8 and unless an acid sensitive plant like lucerne is grown - **VIC**

Apply lime once pH drops below 5 - **VIC**

Apply first remedial rate of lime approximately 150-200 kg lime/ha/year - **VIC**

Avoid cultivation if soil is too dry or too wet - **VIC**



CROP ROTATION

Don't follow one crop with another from the same family - **ALL**

Don't follow one heavy feeder with another heavy feeder - **ALL**

Do plant a green manure crop at least once in every 4 seasons to replenish your soil - **ALL**

Avoid planting certain groups of plants in the same spot year after year - **ALL**

Faba beans put the most N back into the paddock - **VIC**



MARKETING & FINANCIAL

Sell 1/3 grain at sowing, 1/3 later in the season and 1/3 at harvest - **SA**

\$300 is a good price for wheat - **SA**

Equity of 80% or more is comfortable - **SA**

You want to pay off new farms in 2 seasons - **SA**

If you can't pay off new machinery in 3 or 4 seasons, then you can't afford it - **SA**

