



Grain Producers SA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Follow the label and protect Aust grain markets in 2014

GRAIN Producers SA is urging growers to carefully consider their chemical control options for Beet Western Yellow Virus (BWYV) this season with predictions the disease could affect more crops in late winter and early spring.

With many growers spraying to control green peach aphid – the main insect spreading the disease – growers are reminded to only use products registered for the crop and situation, to follow label directions and not exceed the application rate or frequency, and to follow withholding periods.

The team behind SARDI's Pest Facts service is advising against spraying to control aphids while winter conditions continue because the aphids are largely inactive in crops at present. The minimum aphid flight threshold is about 16-17°C. They believe insecticides may be necessary later in winter or early spring to limit the virus spread in canola if winged aphids appear before 50% podding. It is also being investigated whether pulse crops may need protection from aphids.

GPSA chief executive Darren Arney says South Australia has several extremely important canola markets so there is a lot riding on a poor decision on chemical use for aphid control by growers and advisers.

"Producers must remember there are a range of measures in place to detect the presence of chemical residues or any off-label use that may impact markets, such as potential on-farm regulatory audits, vendor declarations of correct chemical use at receival points, and residue sampling by Australia's National Residue Survey, bulk handlers and at end markets."

He says all domestic or export markets for Australia's grain have a low or nil tolerance level for chemical residues and contaminants. As a result, growers play a critical role in protecting the reputation of the Australian grain industry by managing the risk of chemical residues.

"South Australia must avoid any potential issues of late season chemical application that may cause grain to exceed maximum residue limits," Mr Arney said. "A MRL breach could result in increased sampling, testing or administrative protocols on all sectors of the industry, prosecution, more stringent chemical use requirements, or worse, loss of market access for Australian growers."

ENDS

For interviews:

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For more information on Grain Producers SA and its policies, visit www.grainproducerssa.com.au or get in touch on 08 8391 6621 or email info@grainproducerssa.com.au

About Grain Producers SA:

Grain Producers SA is a not-for-profit organisation that represents all levy-paying grain producers in South Australia. GPSA's objective is to foster the development and implementation of policies that promote the economic and environmental sustainability of the South Australian grains industry for the benefit of its producers and the wider community. Growers are encouraged to have their say on policy and have input on the people who represent them.
