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Feed barley glyphosate permit timely, says GPSA

Grain Producers SA has welcomed the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's decision to issue a permit for use of glyphosate on feed barley.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney says the decision gives growers another tool for use in weed control in feed barley and is desperately needed given weed growth in recent wet spring conditions.

"Growers may have had trouble controlling pre-harvest weeds in barley and this permit will enable them to do so quickly and efficiently before harvest starts if they need to," Mr Arney said.

"This decision evens the score for barley in South Australia, given glyphosate is registered for use in other crops pre-harvest.

"In recent years, the area sown to barley in SA has declined and this decision, which enables growers to better control weeds in barley, will be one way of ensuring we have a viable barley market in future."

Mr Arney said the lead on the application was taken by Grain Producers Australia and was supported by industry.

"The entire industry was consulted on this issue which is why it's such a good outcome. The use of glyphosate on feed barley only means we will be able to maintain our premium malt barley markets while giving growers the flexibility to manage agronomic issues on-farm," he said.

"It's been a long process with a lot of industry consultation and importantly, the science is in place to support the decision which gives our markets confidence they will continue to receive the good quality grain that SA is renowned for.

"We encourage growers to follow the permit conditions of use and to understand that some grain buyers will require vendor declarations on chemical use this harvest."

The APVMA permit for *pre-harvest desiccation and spray topping of weeds in specified barley (except malting barley)* lasts until July 31, 2019. It enables late season use of glyphosate on feed barley, not malting barley crops, and builds on a recently expired permit. The new permit is available online at <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER82594.PDF>

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