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Valor Brings Flexibility to Summer Weed Control

New residual registrations for Valor® herbicide in fallows and prior to summer crops greatly broadens crop rotation flexibility and boosts efforts in combating herbicide resistance.

Valor herbicide is well known for its effectiveness as a spike with knockdown herbicides, boosting control on difficult to kill weeds, and in controlling Roundup Ready (GM) cotton volunteers.

However, with new registrations received last year, growers can capitalize on its ability to provide effective pre-emergent (residual) control of a broad range of problem weeds in fallow and prior to planting summer crops. Valor offers excellent

residual control (6-8+ weeks) of problem weeds such as **Barnyard Grass, Feathertop Rhodes Grass, Fleabane and Milk Thistle**, and even against glyphosate resistant strains.

Sumitomo point out there are no other Group G (PPO mode of action) herbicides registered for this residual use in fallow and prior to summer crops. There is also no recorded resistance in Australia to Group G herbicides, making Valor an excellent option for resistance management.

Summary of the New Residual Uses for Valor Herbicide:

• AT PLANTING

- Peanuts and Soybean. Pre-plant or PSPE (post sowing pre-emergent)

• 1 MONTH PRE-SOWING

- Pigeon Pea, Maize, Sorghum, Navybean

• 2 MONTH PRE-SOWING

- Cotton, Sunflower and Mungbeans

• LONG RESIDUAL CONTROL ON CHANNEL BANKS

Significantly, Valor can be used one month prior to sowing several summer crops including Sorghum. With no new herbicide modes of action being registered in Sorghum for many years Sumitomo see this as filling a key need for Sorghum growers. The ability to apply Valor at high residual rates up to 1 month prior to sowing Sorghum now offers growers a new residual chemistry group that can keep country clean leading into sowing and well into the emerged crop, reducing the need to continually rely on older options like Atrazine and metolochlor.



Sorghum planted minimum till at Pittsworth Qld into country with a history of heavy Feather Top Rhodes Grass. Valor applied at 280g/ha 30 days pre-sowing, photo shows excellent level of residual weed control carried well into the emerged crop.

With the steady increase in herbicide resistance in mixed cropping areas and the need for more flexible weed control strategies, growers and agronomists now have a highly flexible and effective new tool at their disposal with Valor. Ticking all the key boxes for mixed cropping systems, Valor offers the ability to be used prior to a large range of crops, it has short and flexible re-cropping intervals (prior to summer and winter crops), it controls key problem weeds, and controls weeds resistant to other herbicides.

These new registrations are very timely for the industry given the drought conditions many are experiencing and the need for flexibility in crop choices as a result. Valor's short plant-back requirements enable growers to respond quickly to opportunities including salvaging failed crops and being able to quickly plant alternate crops where needed.

No plant-back period is required for Soybeans, Faba Beans and Peanuts. While many other crops only require a one-month plant-back period and just 15 mm of rain prior to planting.

This is in great contrast to some other residual herbicides which can tie-up farming country for years, locking farmers into growing only a narrow set of crops over an extended

period (until rainfall and lengthy time requirements have been met). Valor is a godsend in this regard, allowing growers the flexibility to grow a wide mix of crops weather they are coming out of drought conditions or not.

Conserving moisture is critical any time of the year and a product like Valor that can help remove weed pressure in fallow but also offer carryover residual protection into the emerging crop is a valuable option for growers.

Sumitomo encourage growers to try Valor this coming season so they can see how effective it is for increasing their cropping flexibility while managing resistance and ultimately improving the returns from their farming operations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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A grower's experience with deep applied phosphorus

□ By Ben Taylor – 'Culara', Condamine

AT A GLANCE...

Following is a dot point summary of a presentation by Ben at a series of GRDC Grain Research Updates (North) held in March this year.

- Before considering deep P, the whole farm system needs to be considered.
- You can't expect to see full potential of P (or any input) if the whole system isn't in order to gain maximum potential when the opportunity is given.

Overview of 'Culara'

- 'Culara' is a family operation of 4000 hectares of owned and leased land located south of Condamine consisting of Brigalow/Belah and Wilga tree country.
- Key enterprises: Five year rotation of – wheat, chickpea, wheat, long fallow, sorghum/cotton.
- Main equipment used: Case Rowtrack 400 and 12 metre Excel Stubble Warrior with CR600 parallelogram units on 375 mm spacing.
- Have been applying 100–120 kg of MAP over 500–800 hectares per year for the past five years.

Why give deep applied P a go?

- Sorghum configuration/fertiliser trial.
- Deep spray tracks after laser levelling.
- Articles in grain magazines, practical observations and our agronomists, MCA, led us to the decision of giving deep applied phosphorus a go.

Costs of deep applied P

- MAP at \$740 per tonne on-farm applied at 120 kg of MAP = \$89 per hectare cost.



Millet cover crop planted after deep applying MAP at 'Culara' (deep P on left, untreated on right).

- Using 70 litres per hour of diesel covering roughly 10 hectares per hour = \$7 per hectare fuel cost.
- Machine cost = \$20 per hectare.
- Total cost per hectare = \$116 per hectare.

Yield benefits

- Yield advantages of 600 kg to 1200 kg per hectare.
- 900 kg of wheat at \$300 per tonne = \$270 per hectare extra income minus \$116 per hectare cost = \$154 increase in income per hectare.
- Header data only. Not accurate weigh bin data.
- Long fallow/rotations.
- Five year plan – but some research suggest benefits of application could last longer than that.

To sum up

- Before considering deep P, the whole farm system needs to be considered.
- Is good weed control in place?
- Is nitrogen and other nutrition in order?
- Is the profile of moisture managed to give crops full yield potential?
- What equipment do I need to modifying or investing in?
- Apply in good soil conditions to be less aggressive on the equipment.

You can't expect to see full potential of P (or any input) if the whole system isn't in order to gain maximum potential when the opportunity is given.

Contact Ben Taylor, M: 0427 692 175 E: cularafarming@bigpond.com ■



Deep applying MAP to a depth of 18 cm at 'Culara' in sorghum stubble after rain.

Herbicide resistance: Doing nothing is not an option!

HERBICIDE resistant weeds might not be widespread in Central Queensland yet, but all the indications are that the problem is flying just under the radar. Following the discovery of the world's first population of glyphosate resistant sweet summer grass near Emerald, random weed surveys have since confirmed glyphosate resistance in both feathertop Rhodes grass and fleabane samples collected in the region.

Cotton and grain growers and agronomists who want to stay ahead of this mounting threat are invited to attend the 2019 WeedSmart Week event in Emerald. The 2.5-day program will begin with a one-day forum at Emerald Agricultural College on August 13. The following day will be filled with a bus tour to farms around Emerald where growers have put in place integrated weed management programs to minimise the impact of herbicide resistance on their businesses. The final part of the program is a half-day tour of the SwarmFarm Robotics base at Gindie on Thursday, August 15.

The WeedSmart Week theme 'Diversify and Disrupt – Conquer weeds with the Big 6' says it all! At the forum and on the bus trip growers, agronomists and researchers will have all the options and ideas on the table for discussion.

Vicki Green, GRDC Crop Protection Manager, North is looking forward to attending the event and hopes that CQ growers will make the most of the opportunity to be part of such a focussed and interactive couple of days.

Each region needs different diversity

"There is so much pressure on herbicide use in farming systems and growers all over Australia are rising to the challenge to diversify their weed management programs," she said. "We know the WeedSmart Big 6 principles apply everywhere, but they need to be applied differently in each region and on each farm."

"That's where events like this are so valuable – bringing together a vast array of knowledge and experience from local and inter-state growers, researchers, agronomists, consultants and technology experts."



Attendees at WeedSmart Week in Emerald will have several opportunities to see and discuss cutting-edge technologies and find out how other growers in the region are implementing the 'Big 6' weed management tactics.



Vicki Green, GRDC Crop Protection Manager, North hopes that CQ growers will make the most of the opportunity to be part of the first WeedSmart Week event to be held in Queensland. (PHOTO: GRDC)

In August last year, 12 members of the GRDC CQ Grower Solutions Group attended the 2018 WeedSmart Week in Narrabri as part of a six-day fact-finding tour through southern Queensland and northern NSW.

Brothers Justin and Royce Staier, who farm in the Clermont and Kilcummin areas, were part of the tour group and came away from the experience with some new ideas and a resolve to implement some changes in their farming operations.

Justin was impressed with the calibre of speakers and enthusiasm of the growers on the farm tours. "There are so many people putting a big effort into controlling herbicide resistance," he said. "We are just starting to see problems with weeds like feathertop Rhodes grass here and going to WeedSmart Week in Narrabri really brought some important things to mind, like the need to stop survivor weeds and to be careful with residual herbicide use. Machinery hygiene is an on-going risk for spreading herbicide resistance and this is a high priority for us."

At this year's event, attendees will have several opportunities to see and discuss cutting-edge technologies such as optical sprayers, robots and emerging 'green-on-green' spray sensors, and to find out how other growers in the region are implementing the Big 6 weed management tactics.

The growers, agronomists and researchers speaking and participating in expert panels at the Day 1 forum will spark important discussions about herbicide resistance and how the Big 6 tactics can be used to target the weed species and farming systems in the northern cropping region. There's one thing for sure – doing nothing is not an option.

Register for this important three-day event for the 'early bird' single ticket price of \$130, guaranteeing a seat on both the bus tour days as well as the forum, all fully catered, at

<https://weedsmart.org.au/weedsmart-week-emerald/>

For more information visit the WeedSmart website: www.weedsmart.org.au ■

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