



## NSW Weeds Society

A Weeds Society Seminar was held on Friday 13th July at Ryde, NSW.



The seminar discussed research, education, legislation and control aspects of environmental weeds. Rachel McFadyen, CEO CRC for Weed Management, and Tim Low, author & consultant, were the keynote speakers. Please contact FarmCare Training if you would like a copy of the proceedings.

## Have your say...

This month we would like your feedback in regard to the cancelled professional development workshop at Orange. Specifically, we would like to know:  
Why you weren't interested in attending?  
When would be a good time for such a workshop?  
What PD do YOU want to receive?

Please contact the ChemCert secretariat if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments. We would very much appreciate any feedback.

ChemCert (NSW) Ltd.  
PO Box 2600  
Bondi Junction NSW 1355  
P: 02 9387 4714  
F: 02 9387 4746  
E: info@chemcert.com.au  
W: www.chemcert.com.au

## ChemCert Connections

### What's making news

#### Name change for DEC

The Department of Environment and Climate Change is a new agency formed on 27 April 2007. With the change, the former Department of Environment and Conservation is taking on new and renamed programs to build a broader organisation able to respond to the unprecedented challenge presented by climate change. The new department brings together a range of conservation and natural resources science and programs, including native vegetation, biodiversity and environmental water recovery to provide an integrated approach to natural resource management. The website still remains as <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au>.

#### New resource available for trainers

The University of Western Sydney has just released a new manual titled "Pesticides in Catchments". This manual has an excellent range of information that complements the NTR. It would be an extremely useful addition to the resources of any trainer. Please contact the ChemCert secretariat if you would like a copy of this new manual.

#### PestFacts free email subscription service

Growers in New South Wales and Victoria are being encouraged to subscribe to PestFacts, a free email service supported by growers and the Australian Government through the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

Delivered by the University of Melbourne's Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research (CESAR), PestFacts is part of the GRDC's National Invertebrate Pest Initiative (NIPI).

CESAR Research and Extension Officer and PestFacts Coordinator Dr Paul Umina said the aim of PestFacts was to provide growers and farm advisers with up-to-date information about emerging pest issues in a range of crops including cereals, pulses, oilseeds and fodder crops.

"We rely upon a network of contributors to observe and report emerging pest problems in south-eastern Australia," Dr Umina said. "More than 700 agronomists, consultants, agri-business staff, growers and researchers already subscribe to PestFacts." PestFacts is an email-based information service which provides alerts about the location and severity of emerging pest problems on an as-needed basis. The service also includes a wealth of information about the latest research findings, pest identification, feeding and breeding habits, effective controls and links to further information. Dr Umina said a free pest identification service was also available to PestFacts subscribers.

Trainers and/or growers seeking to subscribe to PestFacts should contact Dr Umina on (03) 8344 2522 or email [pumina@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:pumina@unimelb.edu.au).

Low Moderate High

### Pesticides In Catchments Resource Package

Managing herbicides for  
improved crop and  
environmental outcomes

A grain industry initiative for improving water quality in catchments

GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation Australian Government Queensland Government Natural Resources and Water

## Droplets

### New Reaccreditation Pathway

*ChemCert* is currently developing a new Skills Recognition Program for Reaccreditation. This program will give participants a more flexible and personally tailored way of renewing accreditation without attending a course.

*ChemCert* will be piloting this program and will be targeting those who tend not to reaccredit due to geographic hardships. The response and take-up rate of this pilot will be closely monitored and if successful, we hope to add this Skills Recognition Program for Reaccreditation to the suite of courses and other services offered by *ChemCert* (NSW).

### Rural News via Podcasting

For those interested in obtaining rural news via latest technology communication methods, ABC Broadcasting offers a podcasting service. Podcasting is a convenient way of automatically downloading audio or video files to your computer. You can then play this audio or video on your computer or transfer the files to a portable MP3 or video player. Rural news podcasts are available from <http://www.abc.net.au/rural>

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## Statistics

### Large area sown to winter crop

NSW could be in for its biggest harvest yet. More than five million hectares is believed to have been sown to cereal, canola and pulses. If conditions remain favourable, the area planted to grain could pass the record.

The State's farmers have sown the biggest winter crop NSW has seen since 1983. The NSW Department of Primary Industries' (NSW DPI) winter crop estimates have eclipsed the five million hectare mark with a monstrous 5.08 million hectares expected to be planted.

More rains in the next fortnight may encourage croppers to sow the odd paddock late; this could be a record breaker in more ways than one if a good finish to the season is realised.

According to NSW DPI records, the last time we saw this amount of land planted to crop was in 1983 after the horrific 1981-82 drought broke. An early break - the best since 2001 - and favourable sowing conditions led to the record sowing this year. It is estimated that about 96% of potential plantings have been sown compared to about 81% at the same time last year.

Around 111,600 hectares of wheat, 41,000 hectares of barley, 23,650 hectares of chickpeas and up to 9,000 hectares of field peas remain to be sown. Pulse plantings are at an all time high with chickpeas comprising 67% of the total area sown to pulses. Canola plantings are estimated at 229,600 hectares.

The standout areas in NSW are the north eastern areas around Narrabri, Moree and most of the central and southern slopes. Crops in north-western areas around Coonamble and Walgett and the western Riverina such as Finley, Hillston, Griffith, Jerilderie and Deniliquin need reasonable rain early this month to ensure their survival.



These photos represent one of the practices outlined in the University of Western Sydney's new manual "Pesticides in Catchments" - the use of shielded sprayers for banding spraying. This technique leads to spraying over the crop rows rather than whole paddock - it reduces total chemical use and reduces the amount of chemical that could leave the paddock.



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