

STIRLINGS TO COAST



Stirlings to Coast Farmers has completed its fourth year of group herbicide resistance testing.

In 2014, 16 growers submitted 43 ryegrass and 10 radish samples. Most samples were collected from barley and wheat paddocks. All 32 barley paddocks were grown on canola stubble – 17 paddocks from 6 growers on RR canola, 7 paddocks from 6 growers on TT canola and two paddocks unspecified canola stubble. Twelve samples were taken from wheat paddocks grown on pasture, RR canola, and oats.

Most growers rated their weed control in sample paddocks as good, with only one rated poor, the others were good to average. Paddocks were also rated 1-5 by the collectors with 1 being very low weed density (7 paddocks) and 5 as lost control. 17 paddocks were rated as 2 (scattered about 1/m²) and 16 as 3 (frequent about 1-10/m²).

Harvest weed seed management was varied but not a lot of responses. Techniques used include windrow burning, Harrington Seed Destructor, bale direct but no mention of chaff carts from participants.

Ryegrass and radish HR results this season continue to show cause for concern in HRM.

SCF has gained a reputation as leading in herbicide resistance management led largely by this cooperative resistance testing program serving both individual growers and the group as a community.

In August 2015 (10-14) the SCF tour (GRDC funded) is to review research HRM results at AHRI (UWA) and case studies in innovation with leading farmers with grower groups in Northern and Central and Upper Southern Ag areas of WA.