

Tackling Barley Grass

- Case Study



What are your four most common winter weeds?

- Wild Radish
- Annual Ryegrass
- Barley grass & Brome grass
- Marshmallow in canola

Where/when is barley grass an issue?

Paddocks where there is a heavy pasture history in rotations. Moving towards permanent pasture paddocks and permanent cropping paddocks. Keeping them separate to tackle weeds and pasture establishment separately.

Is barley grass the main focus of control measures, or are you normally targeting other species?

Depends on the paddock and populations. Main issue is spear grass, then barley grass.

Is there resistance in barley grass? If yes, when did resistance appear?

More than likely. Looking further into this as exact levels are unknown.

Phil Soullier *Yandenooka*

Farm Size:

*-3800ha cropped
-800 ewes on 600ha pasture*

Annual Average Rainfall:

300mm

Soil Types:

heavy red clay/loam

Enterprises:

*-Wheat
-Canola
-Lupins
-Sheep*

Equipment:

*Seeding: DBS bar (50ft, 12 inch spacing, John Deere box
Spraying: Case Patriot (120ft), Beverley Hydra Boom (120ft)
Harvest: John Deere S770*

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Main problems from barley grass – livestock contamination, yield reduction? Do you need barley grass as early pasture forage?

Likes barley grass for early pasture. Other pastures take too long to get going at this time of year. Quick, good early growth from barley grass.

Main problems with controlling barley grass are:

- Massive seed bank is the main issue. Pasture/crop rotations with inadequate pasture topping
- Quick to maturity. Often misses the window for crop/pasture topping.
- Late emergence depending on season and/or multiple emergence timings. Misses the affects of pre-emergent chemistry/knockdowns



Barley Grass density at MIG trial site in 2019

Paddock History Prior to Trial (2019).

2018: Oats for Hay. Spray.Seed in knockdown, Broadside applied in crop for broadleaf control

2017: Pasture. Poor year, no chemistry applied.



Under canopy canola at MIG's trial site 2021(Untreated Control), reduced weed pressure can be observed



MIG R&D Manager, Tiarna Kanny and DPIRD Research Scientist ,Catherine Berger explaining trial to growers (September 2021)