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Australian grown mungbeans have quality written all over them!

MUNGBEAN Fact Sheet

Make Mungbeans One of Your Options.

Mungbeans are a great summer crop alternative to provide diversification in your cropping mix as a means of providing risk management in terms of agronomy, environment and marketing. Being such a quick crop they often slot in between other summer crops allowing for better utilization of farm labor and machinery.

Grain values are expected to remain firm again this season on the back of high world wide Pulse values and increased recognition of Australia's quality product and acceptance of high prices currently being paid for Pulses.

There are two preferred planting windows for Mungbeans, either as a spring crop planted in Sept/Oct or as a summer crop planted in Dec/Jan.

Spring planted mungbeans can produce reasonable yields provided that attention is paid to;

- Stored moisture levels at planting (at least 90 cm of wet soil)
- Management of thrips on seedling plants
- Control of mirids at flowering
- Desiccation prior to harvest
- Increased weed pressure in spring planting situations.

Most consistent results with spring plantings have been achieved with late September/early October plantings. Late October/November plantings are considered a riskier proposition because of the increased risk of experiencing dry, heat wave conditions on the emerging seedlings and when plants are glowering.

Late December and most of January is the ideal time for summer mungbeans and there are a range of situations to which they would be ideally suited including-

- Double cropping into 2008 cereal stubble where a return to a summer crop in 2009 is preferred. Mungbeans provide the best cropping option due to their quick growth and that they leave the soil in a 'soft' condition.
- Irrigation country where a low water use crop is the preference. With a good profile at planting and a fair summer, only one irrigation should be required. Their early harvest allows adequate time to prepare the ground for the next crop.
- Adds another economical crop to the summer mix to spread the risk.

Mungbean fit in well with broadacre farming enterprises based on winter cereals or summer crops. They help break disease cycles, particularly cereal root and crown rots.

Mungbeans are a very quick crop taking 70 to 80 days from planting to maturity, combining this with the fact that Mungbeans commonly only utilize the top 60 to 80 cm of soil moisture, they are one of the most water efficient summer crops available.

Being a legume, Mungbeans have a lower fertilizer requirement than other summer crop choices, with the added benefit of fixing nitrogen into the soil that is then available to the following crop. The end result is healthier soils and greater productivity from the following cereal crop.

Mungbean Agronomy in Brief.

There are a number of important considerations when planning a mungbean crop briefly these are;

- Secure the services of an AMA Certified Agronomist, a list of which can be found on the Australian Mungbean Association (AMA) web site www.mungbean.org.au
- Plant on a minimum of 75 cm of subsoil moisture.
- Careful selection of the variety to suit preferred market, situation and sowing time.
- Inoculate seed and plant to ensure a uniform plant stand.
- Implement a crop monitoring program and control weeds and insects as appropriate.
- Harvest on time and handle grain with care.

One of the most important considerations is to discuss the marketing opportunities and varieties with one or more of the mungbean processors and marketers. This list is also available on the AMA web site.

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