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MEDIA RELEASE

Glyphosate resistance confirmed at new sites

Glyphosate resistant ryegrass has been confirmed at four new locations in Australia.

The new populations bring the total number of populations to 44, with 24 of the cases in broadacre cropping. All are in annual ryegrass.

New populations from NSW come from a broadacre chemical fallow, an irrigation channel and a fenceline. The fourth new population comes from a vineyard in SA.

National Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group chairman Dr. Rick Llewellyn said that while the new populations demonstrate the risk of over reliance on glyphosate, the low number of new populations in broadacre cropping suggests that the preventative action of growers is making a difference.

"It's now 10 years since the first case of resistance to this valuable herbicide was discovered and many people would have predicted much higher resistance levels by now," Dr. Llewellyn said.

"What we believe we are seeing is the preventative action taken by many by growers starting to pay off.

"We know that many growers have recognized that their glyphosate use history has placed them at high risk of resistance and they have done something about it", he said.

Research from the University of Western Australia has shown that the rare nature of glyphosate resistance means that practices such as the double-knock can greatly reduce the likelihood of resistance developing and that it can be a profitable strategy.

The Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group has produced a guide listing a number of methods to reduce the risk the risk of glyphosate resistance.

"The important thing now is for growers who are entering into high risk situations such as no-till or winter fallow to recognise the risks and how those risks can be reduced - we're clearly seeing that glyphosate resistance is not inevitable."

Details of glyphosate resistant populations in Australia are listed on the Australian Glyphosate Resistance Register, compiled by Dr. Chris Preston from the Weeds CRC. The register and information on how resistance can be managed is available from the national Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group website www.weeds.crc.org.au/glyphosate.

The GSWG is a collaborative initiative involving herbicide companies, researchers, extension networks and agribusiness, supported by the Weeds CRC, AVCARE and the GRDC.

*Contact: Dr. Rick Llewellyn
Faculty of Natural & Agricultural Sciences
University of Western Australia 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley WA 6009
Phone: 08 6488 3419 Fax: 08 6488 1098*