

Safeguard Annual Ryegrass



□ Geoff Eaton (left) and Richard Piper studying the tiller density comparison between Safeguard annual ryegrass and Wimmera

Reduces ARGT galls from 800 to ZERO

A TRIAL with ARGT resistant ryegrass Safeguard on Richard and Kaye Piper's Bindi Bindi property has successfully reduced the number of toxic bacterial galls which cause ARGT.

The 7ha paddock near the Pipers' shearing shed was sown to Safeguard in June 2004 after spraying 800ml/ha of glyphosate.

Tests by the Agriculture Department last year showed a gall count of zero on this paddock.

Richard says a gall count was not taken on the paddock prior to sowing but the paddock was predominantly Wimmera and a similar paddock one kilometre from the shearing shed had a gall count of 800.

The Pipers lost 220 lambs to annual ryegrass toxicity in September 2004.

Prior to this Richard and Kaye, who run a mixed farming enterprise on 1820ha, had lost half a dozen animals in 2003 and 2002.

The livestock component of the farm involves some 1000 Merino ewes which are crossed to Texel rams.

The Pipers were very happy with the productivity on the 7ha Safeguard paddock last year.

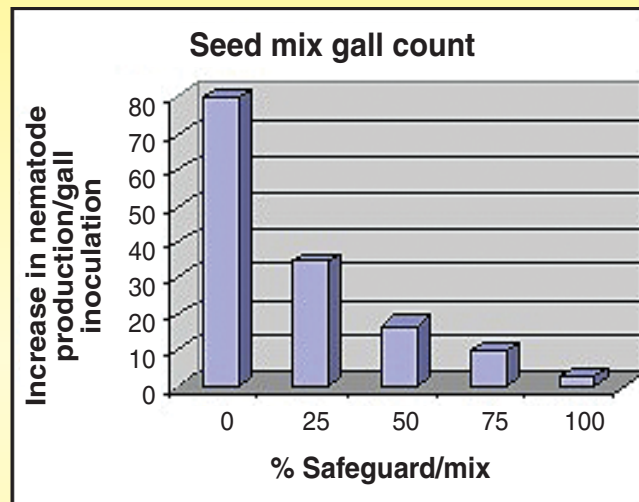
"Safeguard definitely looked to be more productive than Wimmera and we are confident that the Safeguard has crossed with Wimmera," Richard says.

"We are looking to sow a further 75ha area to Safeguard with Cadiz this season."

Richard says past experience has shown him that a sowing rate of 8kg/ha should be a minimum for Safeguard to ensure that the population is adequate to cross with the Wimmera. (See the graph)

Previously Richard sowed Safeguard in 2003 on salt affected areas amongst some trees and saltbush that he was establishing that season.

Safeguard is like no other grass!



□ This graph shows there is a reduction in the number of inoculated galls as the percentage of Safeguard is increased relative to the Wimmera population. By sowing the correct rate of Safeguard annual ryegrass Richard Piper has reduced the gall count to zero in two years.

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