

## LUPIN BULLETIN (All types of Lupin)

This bulletin is designed for those who are contemplating wholecropping or crimping their lupins. If you are dry harvesting with a combine, then some sections will not be relevant. Please also note that this bulletin applies only to crops of straight lupins and does not apply to mixtures such as lupin / triticale mixes. See the separate bulletin for the mixes.

Crops in the South are starting to turn, starting with the leaves beginning to turn yellow. Growers should be careful not to simply rely on the colour of the crop as a guide to its stage, since the hot weather will give it the look of a crop that is more mature than it actually is. Please follow the advice given below.

### Growth Stage

At this time of year, the pods are beginning to become less fleshy and the seeds are reaching full size and starting to firm up. Once the crop starts to die back, the colour of the canopy changes from green to a bronze/yellow colour, the seeds firm up, and the leaves progressively fall. Whether for silage, crimping or combining, **growers should use the texture and flesh colour of the seeds as a guide.**

### Silage crops

Growers intending to silage should be aware that although the crop might look as though it may be ready for silage, often the pods are still very fleshy, and the seeds inside are small and soft. Growers should wait for the seeds themselves to become full size and have the consistency of a cheddar cheese before cutting. This is the point of maximum protein deposition and often means that the crop is beginning to yellow off slightly at the ideal cutting time. (see photo). **Please be aware that cutting too early (when the seeds are still immature and full of water), is a disastrous thing to do – you miss out on a huge amount of the protein and palatability can also be poor.**

Growers are advised to keep an eye on the stems as they will lignify rapidly at that time but will not normally present a problem unless you are wrapping bales from a crop which has been cut too late. If you cut the crop a bit green, it will require wilting. It is also particularly important with protein crops, that they are well consolidated in the clamp/bale and well sealed. Remember that protein crops are generally lower in the available sugars needed to stimulate a rapid anaerobic fermentation so applying an additive, or a source of energy, such as grass, molasses, beet pulp, etc, will help.



Too early  
(Silage would be very wet)

Earliest stage for wholecrop

Too late for wholecrop  
but ideal for crimping

## Crimping Crops

For crimping you should wait until the crop is well on its way to being mature. The seeds should be about 30% moisture if you are planning to use this approach, (See the photo below). Some earlier crops are already close to this stage.

## Combining Crops

Combining of white lupins will not be for at least another six weeks. After 90% leaf fall, the pods will have turned yellow in colour with the seeds in the pods firming up and the seed coats turning white in colour. The target moisture for a dry crop is 15% however the crop can be combined as soon as the seeds reach an acceptable moisture level for your drying and handling system. We will cover this in our next bulletin.

1                      2                      3



### 1 Far Left

Full seed at around 60% moisture where the pod fill phase is complete, and canopy senescence has probably begun. Good for silage/wholecrop. Also the correct timing for roundup if you are to be making wholecrop, (where roundup is deemed necessary). If you are planning to combine and want to use roundup, you should wait for the crop to mature to half way between 1 & 2.

### 2 Middle

Half mature seed where moisture is around 30-40%. Note the colour change from dark green to light green. This is the very earliest stage for either crimping

or desiccation with Reglone where deemed necessary.

### 3 Right side

Mature seed at about 18% moisture. Seeds at 18% or below should be dried to 15% for storage. Alternatively, seeds at 18% can be treated with a wet grain treatment (eg Propcorn). If moisture is much above 18%, it is probably worth leaving them for better weather.

## DESICCATION

The first thing to understand is that most crops do not need desiccation. In the text-book scenario, lupins will reach a harvestable stage without any chemical intervention and in most years, we would anticipate the majority of growers not to find it necessary. However, crops with weeds and/or uneven ripening (or very late crops) will benefit from desiccation.

**Desiccant for Wholecrop Silage** – Wholecropping of pure lupins is fairly unusual in itself, and then the use of a desiccant prior to wholecropping would be fairly unusual again. However - Roundup can be used prior to cutting where deemed necessary in the North. This will have a drying effect on the crop and allow you to make drier silage. It is important that you do not apply this roundup too early, and the crop must be well through pod-fill before applying roundup. In reality, this is not necessary in most crops, and certainly not in the South.

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Timing
Roundup or Generic Glyphosate	3 lt/ha	200 lt/ha	Late pod-fill. 1-2 weeks prior to ensiling

**Desiccant for Combining** – It depends on the situation whether you need to desiccate or not. Roundup, *can* be used, but in reality, most growers use Reglone as Roundup is often ineffective.

If you were determined to use Roundup, then you would use it earlier in the senescence phase (see seed stage number one on previous page).

The standard and most reliable approach is Reglone 10 days prior to harvest when the seeds are around 30% moisture. **Please read the notes on how to apply the Reglone below – The way you apply Reglone makes a huge difference to the effect achieved.**

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Timing
Roundup or a generic Glyphosate	3 lt/ha	200 lt/ha	Early-mid Senescence

Or

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Timing
Reglone + Wetter (either tallow amine or Non-ionic)	3 lt/ha + wetter as recommended	400 lt/ha	Mid-late Senescence. 10 days before combining.

- Apply Reglone in late evening or early morning onto dew. **Do not apply in strong light.**
- **Seed growers** should pay particular attention to not desiccating too soon and **must not use roundup**
- Roundup timing must be correct. If you are too early you will damage the yield. If you are too late and all green area has already gone, use the Reglone option as the Roundup will not work.

### DO YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL SOME LUPINS?

We would like to hear from you if you have any surplus production you would like to sell. With the price of soya still strong, it makes sense to buy in lupins rather than soya meal, so please also call us if you are interested in buying some lupins as feed.

The next bulletin on harvesting, testing moisture, and drying/storage will be sent out soon.

Always read the label carefully before using pesticides and only use as directed therein.  
Use pesticides safely.  
Soya UK Ltd recommend you seek the advice of your chemical advisor regarding  
your particular situation prior to applying pesticides.