

Is your Chickpea Seed Disease and Defect Free

By Toni Somes

New South Wales and Queensland chickpea growers are being urged to take advantage of a no-cost testing service to ensure this season's planting seed is disease and defect free.

The work is part of a new Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) project aimed at eliminating grain defects in desi and kabuli chickpeas.

NSW Department of Primary Industries Pulse Quality research program leader Jenny Wood said she was particularly interested in seed markings (particularly seeds with tiger stripe or blotch markings), and weather damaged seed (symptoms include light weight, brittle seeds or sprouting).

"We would appreciate chickpea seed samples of any condition, whether they look clean or contain visibly diseased, marked or weathered seeds," Dr Woods said.

"We want samples from across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to determine the percentage of seed affected in each sample.

"Our aim is to investigate whether specific environmental conditions are conducive to these defects and if any varieties are more susceptible than others. This will then enable breeding of more tolerant varieties and possibly varied agronomic practices to reduce the risks of defects."

She said chickpea samples sent in by growers would also be tested for germination, seed borne diseases and moulds by NSW DPI plant pathologist Kevin Moore as part of the Northern NSW Integrated Disease Management project. These tests will also be done at no cost to growers.

She said chickpea samples sent in by growers would also be tested for germination, seed borne diseases and moulds by NSW DPI plant pathologist Kevin Moore as part of the Northern NSW Integrated Disease Management project. These tests will also be done at no cost to growers.

Testing chickpea seed from the 2016 harvest has found that half the seed lots tested to December 2016 are internally infected with *Botrytis*. Not treating this seed will lead to *Botrytis* seedling disease (BSD), but will have no impact on *Botrytis* grey mould (BGM) in 2017.

Please send a sample of harvested grain, ideally 500g secured in two plastic bags (double bagged). Samples should not be representative of the entire harvested crop.

Other information required includes: variety; address of the crop paddock (or GPS coordinates would be ideal); dates crop was sown and harvested (and flowering and maturity dates would be helpful if you have them); did you think the plant was stressed in the field?; did the crop show reddening of the foliage?; were there any other varieties near you that were not affected? (if so, what variety?).

This initiative has been well received by producers, as such it will take at least 4 weeks to receive the results from when samples arrive in Tamworth.

Samples should be sent to:

Dr Jenny Wood, (jenny.wood@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
c/o Kate Keir, Tamworth Ag
Institute, 4 Marsden Park Rd Calala NSW 2340.
Contact Germination and Disease Results:
Dr Kevin Moore (kevin.moore@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



Disclaimer: CFI disclaimer: This publication has been carefully prepared, but it has been written in general terms and should be viewed as broad guidance only. It does not purport to be comprehensive or to render advice. No one should rely on the information contained in this publication without first obtaining professional advice relevant to their own specific situation.

The project has enabled growers to go through t.

“Growing pulse crops for the purpose of brown mrogramme.



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Disclaimer: CFI disclaimer: This publication has been carefully prepared, but it has been written in general terms and should be viewed as broad guidance only. It does not purport to be comprehensive or to render advice. No one should rely on the information contained in this publication without first obtaining professional advice relevant to their own specific situation.