

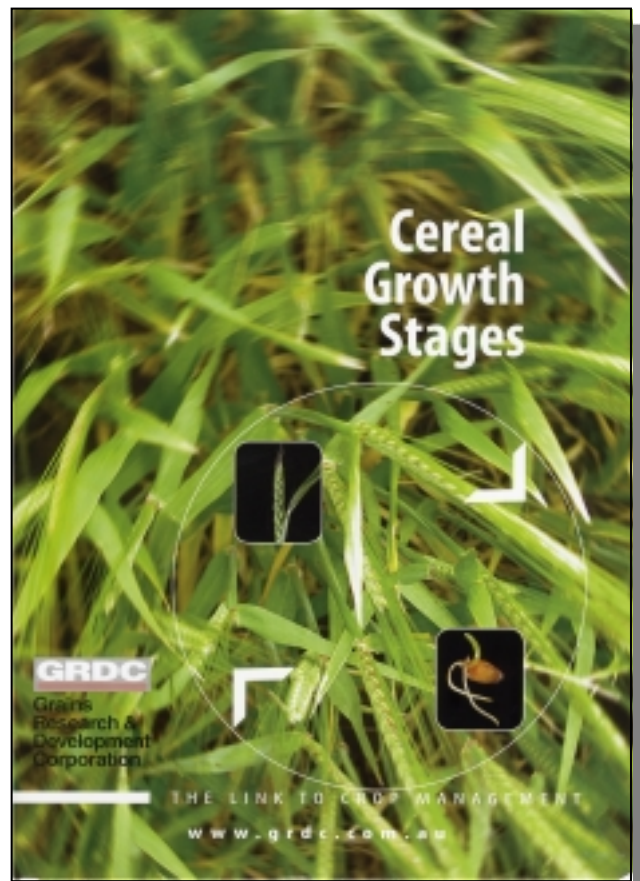
CEREAL GROWTH STAGES

The Link to Crop Management - BOOKLET

This guide has been produced as part of the GRDC funded project (SFS 00006) examining the role of disease control and canopy management in optimising cereal production in south east Australia. Results are primarily based on information generated in the high rainfall zone in 2003 and 2004, though control sites in the Mallee and Wimmera provided drier environments for comparative data.

This booklet is designed to give growers greater confidence in identifying the important cereal growth stages and how they relate to the principles of disease management and canopy management. The booklet is split into three distinct but related sections:

1. Cereal Growth Stages
 - Why are they important to cereal grower?
 - Zadoks Cereal Growth Stage Key.
 - Key growth stages in relation to disease control and canopy management.
 - Early stem elongation GS30-33 (pseudo stem erect – third node on the main stem).
 - Leaf dissection at GS32.
2. Canopy Management in Cereals
 - What is canopy management?
 - How can growers practice canopy management?
 - Influence of plant populations.
 - Influence of nitrogen timing and rate.
 - Influence of sowing date.
3. Disease Management in Cereals
 - Why fungicides?
 - How do fungicides work?
 - Fungicide timing.
 - Management strategies.
 - Project trial results – response to strobilurin fungicides.



The main emphasis of this booklet is on wheat, but where possible, strategy comments have been contrasted with barley. In addition, in the disease management section, the principal focus is the use of foliar fungicides since these products were the principal products tested in the project. It should be emphasised that fungicides represent the last line of defence against disease after other measures such as stubble management, seed hygiene, crop rotation and cultivar resistance have been considered.

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