

Productivity Highlights

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Pastures improve cropping performance

Good pastures grow good crops.

The decision to topdress pastures in mixed farming areas should take into account how the following crops will benefit. The benefits of improved pasture productivity to the cropping phase include increased soil nitrogen and increased levels of organic matter, giving an improved growing medium.

Quite often the response in the cropping phase will more than pay for the costs associated with topdressing pastures.

Increasing pasture productivity can also potentially free up more land for cropping.

An extra 2.3 t/ha of wheat was grown at Tunney (near Kojonup) following two years of topdressing 300kg/ha Super Potash 2:1.

Two years of topdressing 300 kg/ha Super and Potash 2:1 grew an extra 4 t/ha of pasture over the two years AND an additional 2.3 t/ha yield in the cropping phase that followed!

This response occurred on a site soil tested with 33 ppm phosphorus and 60 ppm potassium.

The response to each of Super and Potash applied separately was much less than the response of Super and Potash applied together. The results in Year 2 are shown in the graph (right).

The benefits of growing more pasture with Super and Potash were clearly seen in the wheat crop sown in year 3.

The response in the cropping phase was great enough to generate a 200% return on the investment in pasture topdressing on its own on top of improved animal production.



Wheat following two years of no pasture fertiliser

Wheat following two years topdressing 300kg/ha Super Potash 2:1

