

'Best Bet' IPM strategy

Winter pulse pests – Southern region

| | Post harvest, pre-sowing | Establishment - vegetative | Flowering - maturity |
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| Aphid vectors and virus source | Control green bridge (in fallows) Sow virus-free seed Sowing into standing stubble may reduce aphid landing. | Assess risk of aphid outbreak. High risk when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warm, mild conditions • abundant weed hosts • nearby food sources e.g. clover/medic Aim to close canopy and minimise gaps to outcompete infected plants. | Conserve and monitor beneficials that suppress aphids. Use of broad spectrum pesticides may flare aphids. Check post-application for signs of flaring. |
| Aphids – direct damage (not virus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowpea • Green peach • Blue-green • Pea aphid | Remove green bridge (aphid hosts) to minimise build up during autumn and spring. Sowing into standing stubble may reduce aphid landing and delay aphid build up in crops. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control in-crop weeds to minimise sources of aphids. • Beneficials suppress low populations and reduce the chance of outbreaks. • High nitrogen may make the crop more attractive to aphids. | Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and monitor beneficials that suppress aphids. • If control is required, use soft options (e.g. pirimicarb). Use of broad spectrum pesticides may flare aphids. Check post-application for signs of flaring. Note: knowledge of damaging levels is limited. |
| Pea weevil (PW) | | | Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use temperature model to predict timing of movement. • Monitor paddock edges, and nearby sheds and trees. Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control PW adults before they lay eggs on developing pods. • Border spray (40 m) should be sufficient for control. • Aim for early harvest, before PW start to emerge from infested seed. • Graze paddocks to remove infested grain. • Area-wide management advantageous. |
| Helicoverpa | Pupae-bust where large populations of <i>H. armigera</i> have pupated, particularly in regions where summer cropping follows winter crop (e.g. irrigated areas). | | Monitor for moths: <i>H. punctigera</i>: from mid-late winter, using pheromone traps or at night. High risk scenarios include wet winter in inland breeding areas, large moth flights detected, or wet conditions in spring extend the period of crop susceptibility <i>H. armigera</i>: from spring (Oct-Nov), using pheromone traps or the Cottassist Emergence model. If high risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely monitoring of susceptible crops is critical. Continue until crop is dry and unattractive, or harvested. Ensure post treatment checks are made • Use thresholds to guide spray decisions. • Use soft options first, particularly if aphids are present. Consider biological insecticides (Bt or NPV) to control small larvae <7 mm. |