

INFECTION TO PROTECTION



NET FORM NET BLOTCH



Agronomy matters

Produced by Molly Edmondson
Hart research intern, 2026

Fungicides are one tool, but **agronomy** helps set the scene for **disease control** towards the end of the season

Know what your **crop still has to give**, consider growth stage, yield potential, how much leaf area remains

Assess **disease risk** based on current levels, other disease threats and the **weather ahead**



The money leaves

More green leaf area, captures more sunlight

Increased photosynthesis, improves growth

Better grain fill resulting in more profit



Top 4 leaves, flag leaf sheath & head = the money leaves

Lower leaves, key for early growth, but contribute less to yield

- The money leaves are the most important plant structures for yield
- In seasons where conditions are conducive, a 'head wash' fungicide application may be beneficial
- A head wash may also help target other diseases such as rusts and fusarium head blight

Putting the tools to work

We've used NetBlotchBM, an app that assists growers with fungicide application decisions, and the likely economic returns from those decisions. Using the GRDC barley net form net blotch trial hosted at Hart, we've put the tools to the test.

We entered paddock conditions to compare **net return, expected yield** and **NFNB loss** for two varieties

Maximus CL performs better in all scenarios, highlighting **varietal resistance**

Comparing **three fungicide scenarios**: no fungicides, one application and two applications

The no fungicide scenario performed **worst**, reinforcing the importance of **proactive NFNB management**

For the full NetBlotchBM reports, and details on our inputs follow the link or QR code

RGT Planet (SVS)



No spray		Spray once	
Net return (\$/ha)			
Minimum	381	Minimum	616
Mean	534	Mean	764
Maximum	700	Maximum	917
Expected yield (t/ha)			
Minimum	2.61	Minimum	3.55
Mean	3.11	Mean	4.01
Maximum	3.66	Maximum	4.51
Loss to net blotch (t/ha)			
Minimum	1.3	Minimum	0.51
Mean	1.8	Mean	0.9
Maximum	2.29	Maximum	1.3

Spray twice	
Net return (\$/ha)	
Minimum	653
Mean	796
Maximum	939
Expected yield (t/ha)	
Minimum	3.76
Mean	4.2
Maximum	4.65
Loss to net blotch (t/ha)	
Minimum	0.37
Mean	0.72
Maximum	1.06

The issue (NFNB)



Other disease pressure

Maximus CL (MS*)

*Maximus CL is currently rated MS in South Australia, however in the app it is rated MRMS based on other states rating and is not updated for SA ratings.



No spray		Spray once	
Net return (\$/ha)			
Minimum	617	Minimum	785
Mean	730	Mean	910
Maximum	843	Maximum	1032
Expected yield (t/ha)			
Minimum	3.42	Minimum	4.11
Mean	3.77	Mean	4.5
Maximum	4.11	Maximum	4.87
Loss to net blotch (t/ha)			
Minimum	0.92	Minimum	0.23
Mean	1.15	Mean	0.42
Maximum	1.39	Maximum	0.61

Spray twice	
Net return (\$/ha)	
Minimum	790
Mean	914
Maximum	1037
Expected yield (t/ha)	
Minimum	4.21
Mean	4.6
Maximum	4.97
Loss to net blotch (t/ha)	
Minimum	0.15
Mean	0.32
Maximum	0.5



Leaf rust



Smut



Powdery mildew



Scald



Click here or use the QR code for more info...

