



# KASPA

field pea



Version 1, February 2005

## **KEY FEATURES OF KASPA MANAGEMENT**

- **Using higher plant populations may be beneficial with Kasper**
- **Downy mildew control is not needed**
- **Closer management to avoid bacterial blight may be needed with Kasper**
- **Monitor closely, and quickly control insect risks during the short flowering and podding duration with Kasper**
- **Crop topping is possible with Kasper despite its bulkiness**
- **Kasper is usually more easy to harvest than conventional peas, but avoid excessive harvest speeds. Header modifications can be made.**

This VMP refers to those management issues with Kasper peas that may be different to other pea varieties. Refer to existing guides for other general pea management issues.

**Seeding Rate:** With Kasper, target at *least* the same plant density as Parafield ie 40 – 65 plants/sqm.. Kasper will often suffer significant yield reductions if grown at less than 40 plants/m<sup>2</sup>.. Do not reduce seeding rates to allow a more open canopy for crop-topping. Early canopy closure is the higher priority in controlling herbicide resistant ryegrass.

Sowing at a 10 to 20% higher seeding rate than recommended for Parafield can often result in a significant yield increase, and increase Kasper's competitive-ness against weeds. If in low rainfall environments a higher seeding rate with Kasper overcomes the problem of poor dry matter being produced, the resultant increased yield may not always be economic.

**Sowing Date:** The sowing date to target for Kasper is the same as for Parafield in most areas, aimed at minimising black spot and other diseases. Early sowing is possible with Kasper, but the potential for disease is increased. Kasper is more sensitive than Parafield to yield loss with delayed sowing. If in areas prone to frosts, Kasper is being sown one to three weeks later than Parafield to avoid late frosts during flowering and early pod fill, its yield potential is reduced because of shorter flowering duration and greater exposure to the risk of late heat stress.

**Herbicide Sensitivity:** Data from alkaline soils only

- Kasper often suffers less yield loss than Parafield to Broadstrike, Raptor and Spinnaker
- Kasper shows a similar level of susceptibility as Parafield to metribuzin (PSPE and Post), Brodal, Brodal+MCPA, Simazine+Diuron and MCPA-Na treatments

**Disease resistance and management:** Kasper is resistant to downy mildew, so a fungicide seed dressing for downy mildew in Kasper is not needed. Greater emphasis on bacterial blight control may be needed in Kasper than with Parafield and other conventional pea varieties. Sow clean seed, and avoid physically damaging the peas with herbicides or other crop management practices during a frosty period.

To minimise yield losses from Black spot, Bacterial blight and Powdery mildew follow best management guidelines for your region.

Paddock inspections and two seed tests for bacterial blight freedom have been conducted by AWB Seeds on Kasper sowing seed for 2005.

**Rolling:** Kasper peas may still need rolling after sowing to enable easier harvest.

**Crop topping:** Kasper can be crop-topped to prevent weed seed set, particularly herbicide resistant ryegrass. Penetration of the desiccant into the canopy and onto the hidden weeds could be reduced in some situations with a bulky, erect Kasper crop. Kasper does tend to better smother ryegrass than other varieties, thus reducing seed set.

**Insect control:** Close monitoring and early pest control during the short flowering and podding period with Kaska is critical, otherwise damage from uncontrolled pea weevil or native budworm can be more severe than with other varieties with earlier and longer flowering periods.

**Frost and heat:** The later flowering of Kaska and its short flowering and podding period can mean that it could escape frost. A frost or heat event during this time could however cause more significant yield loss than in varieties such as Parafield. The impact of frost in the vegetative stages can be exaggerated by the presence of bacterial blight in conjunction with crop stress or physical damage.

**Harvest:** Harvest Kaska as soon as it is mature, but avoid cool, damp conditions. The reduced pod shattering trait helps to prevent seed loss before and during harvest, but will not prevent seed quality decline.

Crop lifters are best to be removed with Kaska, unless the crop is very short. A flex front is ideal. In some dense crop situations, side cutters or coulters may be needed to 'break open' the crop for the harvester comb. Harvesting problems with Kaska can often be associated with belt fronts or excessive harvest speed. A raised cross auger with paddles fitted above the belt can be fitted on draper fronts to greatly help the feeding. Lupin breakers on the cross and/or table auger will keep material flowing. Pea pluckers can throw Kaska peas over the back of the comb, guards or backward facing rods can be fitted.

Windrowing has been successful with Kaska, with similar flow problems and modification solutions to belt front harvesters perhaps being required. Windrows must be rolled immediately after swathing.

**Marketing:** An End Point Levy of \$2.20 per tonne (GST inclusive), which applies to breeder royalties, applies to Kaska. Segregation of Kaska from other dun type peas may be desirable for the container trade to exploit its higher splitting yield or to achieve canning grades. It can however be co-mingled with other dun types if required.

**Seed:** Kaska<sup>Ⓢ</sup> is protected by Plant Breeders Rights, any unauthorised commercial propagation or any sale, conditioning, export, import or stocking of propagating material of his variety is an infringement under the Plant Breeder's rights Act, 1994.

Growers are allowed to retain seed from production of this variety for their own seed use as seed only.



**AWB seeds are the licensed marketers of the variety Kaska, phone 1800 054 433**

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