



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

Field Research Trial Site Selection

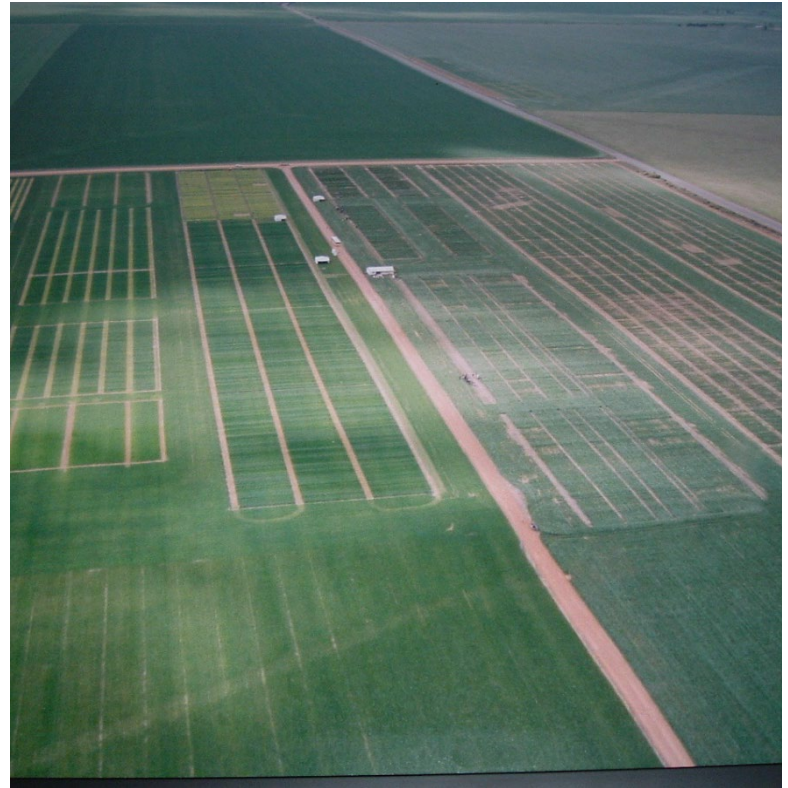
Steve Cosh - Julie Roche



In a Perfect World

All of the following would be assessed first hand -

- Weeds
- Site Uniformity / tramlines
- Soil condition
- Ease of access – in the growing season.



In the year/growing season prior to the trial being undertaken

However, it is not a Perfect World

Google Maps is NOT a means of selecting a field research site –

- It is just 1 of many tools to help in trial site selection
- No 1 tool can replace a site visit.



Trial Type - What is being investigated?

General Description of the Trial

- Variety Comparison
- Agronomy
- Nutrition
- Variety X Time of Sowing
- Herbicide Efficacy
- Tillage Research
- 1 Year or Long Term.



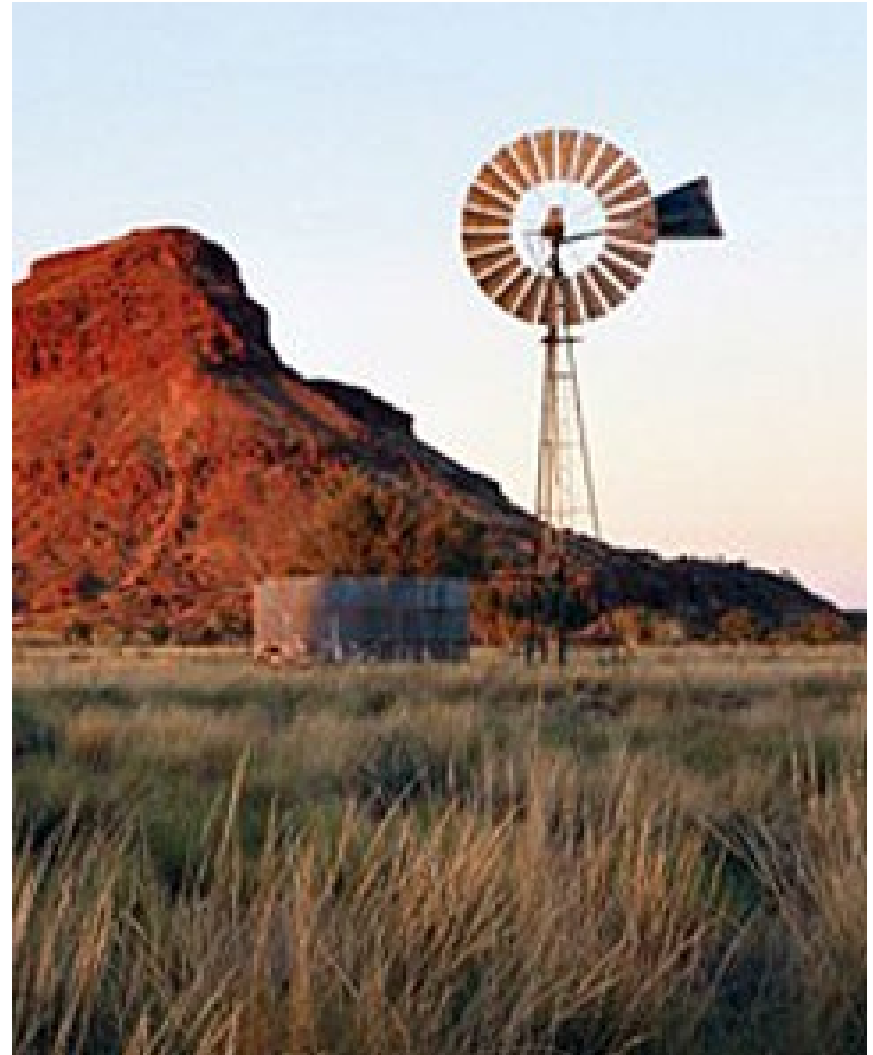
Soils Ain't Soils

What is the Soil Type Required?

Soil sampling will need to be carried out –

Soil Condition

- Non Wetting
- Drainage – waterlogging
- Structure – machinery able to penetrate soil at seeding
- pH Acidic / Alkaline soil
- Fertility.



Rotation

What is the general crop rotation required? Length of the rotation?

- Continuous wheat
- Continuous cereal
- After Canola
- After a legume
- After a specific legume, a pasture, lupin, pulse a specific variety etc.



Site Uniformity

Replications and Statistics can only account for limited site variation.

You should be aiming for as uniform/even site as possible.



Weeds

Chipping/Hand Weeding is NOT a preferred control option –

- Weeds present or absent
- Herbicide Resistance Status
- Weed seed bank are you just going to get overwhelmed – it's a numbers game
- Long Term trials require long term weed control. The gap between plots can be a source of weeds.



Vermin

Vermin such as –

- Kangaroos
- Birds – Cockatoos, Ducks
- Rabbits
- and if you are lucky Feral Pigs.

Time of Sowing trials are particularly vulnerable to vermin damage at both ends of the year - Avoid sites adjacent to large areas of native vegetation.



Biosecurity and Access

Are there Biosecurity issues due to the nature/type of trial?

Snails, weed seed issues

You need to reduce the biosecurity risk

- Trial site location as close as possible to property entrance – think about it!
- Field Day/ field walk considerations

Access

- What equipment and who needs access to the site
- Condition of access roads / tracks during the season.
- Field Day/ field walk considerations



Thank you

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