



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Following a dry year...

Invertebrate pests

Non-persistent pests: not much impact

Pests that disappear and must re-colonise between seasons (no diapause stage):

- a. **Native budworm:** reliant on migration on weather patterns regardless, however drought in NE pastoral regions may decrease budworm moths
- b. **DBM & aphids:** disappear when the season ends, must recolonise
- c. **Cutworm, brown pasture looper** etc., more issues with green bridge

“inter-season reset”



Persistent pests: better or worse?

Generally, less plant biomass from ↓ rainfall, but insecticide usage the main influencer

Canola, lupins, pulses generally more susceptible at germination (esp. cotyledon emerg.)

- a. **Mites and lucerne flea:** likely less if managed well, hatch at different times each year
- b. **Beetles, weevils, earwigs:** decreased trash loads may be of benefit

Cumulative benefits of continuous cropping = constantly pushing pests to low levels (life cycle)



Issues to consider:

Influences from a dry year on the germination the following autumn:

↓ soil moisture, ↑ soil compaction, soil erosion/degradation, seed quality?

= increased susceptibility to pests (and increased time window for plant loss)

Low rainfall year = ↑ weed survival? e.g. vegetable weevil build-up in capeweed

Grazing considerations: general decrease in pest pressure

