

## **Frost Monitoring**

It can be difficult to accurately assess the amount of frost damage in a crop because of its patchy nature and the difficulty in predicting compensation that may occur during grainfilling. The steps outlined in this flow chart will provide a systematic method to inspecting your crop for frost damage and in turn informing possible salvage options.

## ()5–7 days Inspect crops when they **Temperatures fall below** Symptoms may not be Examine the crop in the lower parts of the landscape particularly light textured soils first and proceed to higher are between ear-emergence 2°C at your nearest obvious for 5-7 days and grain filling. weather station. after the frost. ground to evaluate extent of damage with elevation and aspect. $\mathbf{x}$ 6 6 Mark or tag a few Walk through the crop If damage is very If damage is not severe, yield Inspect for damage and examine a whole plant heads to monitor severe particularly may not be greatly affected. every 10 or 20 paces. during grain fill. at head emergence If keeping for seed, collect from (8 or more heads least affected areas, retain killed out of 10). 10-20% more than required as Consider cutting for rates may have to be adjusted If the head has not emerged from the If the head has emerged, hay, or other cost based on germination tests boot, check that stem and developing open the florets to check recovery strategies. performed prior to seeding. head has not been damaged. that the grain is developing.

GRDC

NATIONAL FROST INITIATIVE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Ben Biddulph** 

- 2 0428 920 654
- ĭ ben.biddulph@dpird.wa.gov.au

💡 agric.wa.gov.au/n/66