

Transcript

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# In the video are:

Doug Sawkins, Senior Development Officer DAFWA

Chris Cochrane, Farmer from Glendale near Duranillin

# Transcript

# MyCrop is a website developed by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, designed to help growers diagnose problems with their crops. Growers can use the site to estimate if they are reaching their wheat yield potential get information about key soil issues as well as diagnose problems in their wheat crop and find solutions. By using the website growers and advisors get access to the latest research results and information.

# Doug Sawkins Senior Development Officer with DAFWA says it’s all about correctly identifying crop constraints and building diagnostic skills. What I'm developing is an online tool, or more specifically an app that will enable people to come into the paddock and use available information like what the plant looks like and other clues, to do an in paddock diagnosis which they can then check-up.

# Doug says understanding the history of the paddock while not making assumptions about what might be constraining a crop is extremely important when diagnosing problems. The most important thing is not to come in and look at specific area, because usually when people come in, when people are asked in, they are asked to look at a particular problem. It’s really important to take a completely objective approach and look at all the sources of evidence that are available before you actually make a decision. Because any tool is valueless if you only put certain information in.

# When I come into a paddock like this the first thing I do is get as much information as I can from the farmer so I've got an understanding of the background, you know what’s gone on, have a look at any test results if available. The next thing is to really not go to any specific spot but have a general look around. It’s really important to cover the whole paddock because our paddocks are so variable we quite often have more than one thing going on in the paddock and it’s very easy to get derailed by specific patches. While looking for clues above ground it is important so also know what is happening below the surface. Dig up the plant properly, don't just hoik it out because you'll quite often leave most of the roots behind. Clean the dirt off, so knock the dirt off and it’s a good idea now to have a bucket or something to wash off the roots to be able to see where there are any particular lesions or other symptoms which you can pick up. Now just be aware that this is quite different from if you were sampling a plant to send away.

# Farmer Chris Cochrane from Glendale near Duranillin in the Great Southern of WA says understanding how to correctly diagnose problems in crops is extremely important. It’s all based on crop yield; we had to do something to get a half reasonable yield. The way that it was going we weren’t going to get much. It would have been almost a disaster in the early stages had we not put something on it. It was going to the stage where crop was almost a right off.

# End of transcript