



SPRAYGRO LIQUID FERTILIZERS

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MAKING THE MOST OUT OF MARGINAL COUNTRY WITH SMARTRACE® ZINC MANGANESE

Cropping marginal country near Ceduna has presented many challenges to fourth generation farmers, Peter & Ian Webb.

But the introduction of innovative farming ideas and products, have enabled them to successfully crop up to 6000 hectares (15,000 acres) each year. Half of this arable country is on the home property at Mudamuckla, 50 kilometres east of Ceduna, and the remaining cropping country is sharefarmed 40 kilometers away at goode.

With the dog fence making up their northern boundary, the Webbs are pushing the limits of agriculture. It is not so much the amount of rain that provides the biggest challenge, but its regularity. And while rain is essential for successful cropping, it is also necessary the soil as "pretty good" red sandy loam. "It just needs moisture," he says.

The Webbs have opted for trash farming rather than burning – primarily as a matter of conservation.

"We're trying to help stop drift," Peter says. "But last year it was so dry and windy there was nothing we could do. The rainfall was atrocious, we only got about half what we'd normally get."

The average annual rainfall is considered to be about 280-300mm, but it is misleading to generalise, Peter says as rainfall can be quite variable. For example, this year has been a "very strange" season, according to Peter, with varying amount of rain across the property.

"The week before Anzac Day the northern part of the property received 30mm, while around the house was quite dry," he says. This year the Webbs have sowed 5400ha (13,600) acres to wheat and 500 ha (1250 acres) to triticale.

Wheat is far the safest crop in this region, although Peter says they often plant a small amount of Barley and oats. They have also experimented with canola and peas with varying degrees of success.

MEDIA RELEASE

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