

# No holiday break for Hydra Boom workers

By KEN WILSON

YOU would expect with cobwebs growing on boomsprayer rigs throughout the Wheatbelt, manufacturers would be tempted to take a holiday break.

After all, there has been no meaningful summer rain and hence no meaningful weed problems, providing farmers with some budget respite with a reduced or nil spraying program.

Scattered thunderstorm activity has seen some germinations but predominantly, farmers are still waiting for a decent opening rain to trigger germinations so spraying can start before seeding.

But despite quiet activity in WA, Beverley Hydra Boom manager Eddie Peart is flat out filling eastern states orders.

"The good rains in the east and the Federal

Government's tax concession last year has seen our business pick up with orders from South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales," he said. "It is quiet in WA but we've got plenty of work."

Since 1994 Beverley Steel Fabrication has changed direction moving away from general steel fabrication to sole manufacture of the Beverley Hydra Boom when Beverley farmer David Adams approached the company with his prototype.

With Eddie and Dave debuting the first hydraulic lift and fold model at the 1994 Dowerin GWN Machinery Field Days, Beverley Hydra Boom has enjoyed exponential growth to become one of Australia's leading boomsprayer manufacturers.

And its focus has never wavered from providing practical and reliable boomsprayers to meet farmer demand.

Its latest foray sees a directional change to embrace the latest in spot spray technology.

During last year's field days round, it unveiled a 36m (120ft) Hydra Boom fitted with Weedseekers.

Ideally suited to summer spraying programs, the Weedseeker units have been

available for some years but have not yet taken off in WA.

But with increasing anecdotal feedback from the few owners in WA, there is a buzz being created about this technology.

The Weedseeker system consists of a red-eye camera mounted at regular intervals down the boom.

The camera identifies the weed, through an infrared sensor which reflects off chlorophyll in the weeds leaves and the system releases a dose of chemical directly onto the identified weed with pin-point accuracy.

This accuracy leads to a reduction in herbicide costs, savings on water usage and reduced herbicide drift.

Depending on the weather conditions, the Weedseeker system can be used night or day giving greater flexibility in spraying times.

The system has been fitted to Hydra Boom units and trials show huge chemical savings.

The potential that the unit will have paid for itself in about three years through these savings is a very realistic goal.

The Hydra Boom fitted with Weedseeker will come



ABOVE: Beverley Hydra Boom's latest foray sees a directional change to embrace the latest in spot spray technology. During last year's field days round, it unveiled a 36m (120ft) Hydra Boom fitted with Weedseekers. Ideally suited to summer spraying programs, the Weedseeker units have been available for some years but have not yet taken off in WA.

LEFT: Beverley Hydra Boom manager Eddie Peart says good rain in the eastern states has kept the Beverley factory in full operation despite quiet market conditions in WA.

with the ability for the booms to be removed from the machine at the end of summer spraying and standard booms fitted for

winter spraying, thus allowing one boomspray to handle summer and winter spraying needs. Fitted with a 2000L tank

and a 7000L tank, greater productivity will be inevitable for the machine. According to Eddie, Hydra Boom models equipped with

the Weedseeker, will provide the ability for year round spraying, adding a higher degree of flexibility to save on chemical costs.

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