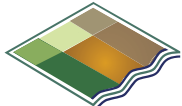




ADVISER



MANAGER

Goings on in the Back Paddock

Revamped website has vital info for users

BACK PADDOCK SOFTWARE

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BPS provides a range of high quality and easy to use farm production planning and management solutions. At BPS we empower our users to excel in their chosen endeavours through a combination of quality software tools, information, training and support.

Products:

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What our customers say:

"For software so simple to use, Adviser is an extremely powerful planning and record keeping tool. We use it to help our clients maximise farm operating surplus"

Craig Topham, Agronomist / Consultant — Agrarian Management Geraldton.

"My paddock planning and record keeping was a mess until I was introduced to Manager by my agronomist. It's a fantastic program and very simple to use. Now everything is organised and my farming operation is much smoother. My advisers, tractor driver and staff all know what is to be done because it is all printed out in booklets. I would be lost now without Manager."

Nic Woodfield Farmer, Kununoppin, Western Australia

Help Desk:
1800 557 166
7am to 7pm, EST

IF you haven't visited the Back Paddock Software website for a while, it may pay to "log-onto" www.backpaddock.com.au.

The website has undergone an extensive revamp and now provides a wealth of information to new and existing users of the company's programs.

National customer solutions manager Warwick Date said the new-look website contained a host of resources that makes using Back Paddock Software programs even easier.

"We are very excited about the revamp," Warwick said.

"Clients will find that there is a large amount of resources that are able to be downloaded off the site to assist with their use of the programs."

He said free downloads from the website include a master database, scenarios, the new BPS User Guide and example reports.

"We have also added a resource list, information on programs and news on latest developments."

"We encourage clients to log-on and have a look at what is available.

"Files that are too big to email to users can be easily downloaded off the site."

Warwick said updating the website with new and relevant information is an ongoing process to ensure users have the latest and best information and resources always available to them.

"The website is an important tool for us in communicating with our clients and providing new and exciting updates on the Back Paddock Software programs," he said.

Visit the website at www.backpaddock.com.au



**BACK PADDOCK
SOFTWARE**

Manager Software

—nothing else like it!!!

THE Back Paddock Software product has helped the May family, who farm at Barham in New South Wales, to make some financially sound decisions that may not have happened if they did not have access to an accurate planning tool.

David May runs 7200 hectares with his father and brother. The operation comprises irrigation blocks and a dryland block in mallee country.

They have 11,400 entitlements and irrigation cropping is their main enterprise, with rice and winter cereals grown. The cropping is complemented by a sheep and cattle operation.

David said they were beginning to realise the benefits of forward planning after two years of using the Back Paddock Software program.

“We have made some proactive decisions to eliminate some things that we would usually have done, which, because of the nature of farming, are normal practice,” he said.

“A common philosophy is to just do the same thing each year, but once you have an instrument to identify the figures and financials involved, we can make more informed decisions that save us a lot of time and money.”

David said an example of that occurred last year.

“Because we were able to plan the whole year using the Manager software, we could specifically identify what returns we were going to get from the water that we had carried over from the previous year.”

“The software identified the stage where we could make more money from selling the water, so we were able to make an informed decision to do that.

“I think it was one of the best decisions we have ever made. Otherwise we would have just gone down the track of growing rice. The way the season turned out so badly, we were able to make the right decision earlier in the year.”

The May operation involves three families working in together with a couple of permanent workers, and David said keeping everyone informed was the key to a smooth running operation.

“We are now able to plan ahead earlier and everyone, including the workers, gets a copy of the report and knows what we are planning to do for the year before we physically do it,” he said.



David May

“Because the employees know exactly what is happening they feel they are involved in the decision-making process.

“It also gives us the opportunity to put spray reports in the spray trucks and sowing reports in the tractors so everyone is always fully informed.”

David said the beauty of the software was “knowing how you were travelling” at all stages of the production cycle.

“Prior to using this system our record keeping was a basic Excel spreadsheet. It was purely paddock recording and every operation would be inputted manually and there were no financials.”

“With Back Paddock we now know exactly what the crops are costing us to produce and where we can become more efficient in the future.

“You are able to keep track of what chemicals you are using, or have used in the past, and what rotations you need to put in place to avoid weed and resistance problems.”

He said the right advice could result in significant gains, more than justifying the time to initialize the software for the farming operation.

“Our local agronomist used the software and he had done a lot of the preliminary work on our operation within his own program, so he was able to save us a lot of time.”

David said the family was also looking to become involved in precision agricultural systems, where the software would be of additional benefit.

“I haven’t done a lot of work on the mapping side of things yet, but the agronomist has and I can already see there are going to be some enormous advantages there,” he said.

Update to version 8.5.5.0

BEFORE commencing work with your Back Paddock Software program, it is important to check that you are running the latest version of the software.

To check that you are using the latest version, select ‘Check for Updates’ under the ‘Help’ command and follow the prompts.

Recently the software has been massaged to remove most of the reported “software bugs” which often creep into the system when improvements are made.

You should be running at least Version 8.5.5.0

Less guesswork equals greater returns in South Australia

SOUTH Australian agronomist Julien Pearce, Elders Roseworthy, says company clients have benefited financially from the use of Back Paddock Software programs because it has taken a lot of the guesswork out of their operations.

“One of the biggest problems in the industry in the past was that a lot of recommendations were made in the ute, driving around the paddock with the farmer,” Julien said.

“There was no referring back to historical data. It was what you saw on the day and then advising what should be done.

“Because Back Paddock is an accurate and easy-to-follow record-keeping system, you can actually print out the historical data and have it with you in the ute and refer to it before making recommendations.

“That way you are not just doing the same thing every year. You actually have historical data that shows what that paddock has been through in the past and how you can actually maximise production by changing management practices like putting in a different crop or altering fertiliser rates.”

He said using historical data in the software to review and reflect on past decisions was crucial for providing good advice to improve returns for clients.

“I do all the pre-emergent planning with clients now and usually go back to them later in the year for the post-emergent plans. But in saying that, I will often go through some different scenarios for the full year with the client just so they know what plan we will follow depending on how the season pans out.”

Julien said there was also a big time saving benefit for him when collating reports for clients.

“In the past it was very manual – everything had to be inputted and re-inputted and the farmer ended up being very confused,” he said.

“Once you have entered the initial data into Back Paddock software it is a simple case of updating it, and everything you need is always available.”

Julien said the service offered by the Back Paddock Software team is very good.

“There have been a couple of glitches along the way but it has always been solved with a quick phone call to the guys. If it hasn't been fixed on the spot it is corrected in the next update that comes out.”



Elders South Australian agronomist Julien Pearce runs through the company's farm planning system that uses the Back Paddock Software program with grower John Day, Reeves Plains SA. Elders ambassador Glenn McGrath looks on.

Exciting new features now incorporated into software

BACK Paddock Software has responded to user requests by developing and incorporating a number of new features into its software.

National customer solutions manager Warwick Date said the company's program developers had been kept busy incorporating the new features, which complement the existing unique features of the software.

"The new features have been difficult to incorporate into the program so there were a few teething issues, but they have now been resolved, resulting in a very robust program," Warwick said.

"Most of the improvements have been included to accommodate permanent crops such as grapes, citrus, sugar cane and row crops."

The functionality of the features are documented in Back Paddock Software's updated User Guide, which can be downloaded from <http://www.backpaddock.com.au/Resources.aspx>

The new improvements include:

Designate permanent crops

This feature allows the allocation of permanent crops to certain areas and calculates the number of plants per hectare. The functionality involves selecting the permanent flag key, dates for the life of the trees, and row/plant spacings. It is envisaged that users will have the ability to apply nutrients per plant as well as per hectare.

Crop Type	Variety	Units	Start Date	Finish Date	ha	Units/ha	Row(m)	Plant(m)	Pasture	Blend	Irrigated	Summer	Hort.	Perm.
Grapes-Wine	Chardonnay	Vines	1/12/2005	3/04/2020	24	1050	3.4	2.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Spray % paddock

Users have the flexibility to plan and record spraying just a portion of the paddock. This can be used in orchards, where only 66% of the area may be sprayed – between the rows or in a row crop situation, where only 33% of the area may be sprayed. The feature automatically defaults to 100% unless otherwise selected.

Mix	ha	% ha	Water L/ha	Water Req. L	Target Species	Timing	Date	Notes
1	16	66	100	1056	Grasses/B Leaf	Dormant bud	5 Jul 07	
2	24	100	100	2400	P Mildew	Bud - Burst - Berry - Set	26 Sep 07	

Multiple harvest units

This new feature is beneficial for the broadacre and horticulture sectors. It gives users the ability to harvest two products off the one area in specified units and to report on these units. An example could be wheat grain and baled wheat straw, or boxes of fruit and bulk fruit, or canola grain and canola oil bonus. The feature automatically defaults to grain unless otherwise specified. Adding an extra product is done within the "Production" section.

Mix	ha	% ha	Water L/ha	Water Req. L	Target Species	Timing	Date	Notes
1	16	66	100	1056	Grasses/B Leaf	Dormant bud	5 Jul 07	
2	24	100	100	2400	P Mildew	Bud - Burst - Berry - Set	26 Sep 07	

Chemical group history

This new report concisely shows the chemical groups applied to a particular area in the past five years. While this information was available previously, it is now summarised in one easy-to-read report for each paddock over entire farms. An example of this report is shown at the top of this page.

Chemical Group History – Demo Farm 06 2007

			2003	2004	2005	2006
Avonlea	Header	M-Glycines	2			2
	Horse	3A-Pyrethroids	3	2		1
		A1-Fops	1	1	1	
		B2-Imidazolinones	2			
		D1=Dinitro-analines			1	1
		F1-Nicotinilides		1		
		I1-Phenoxyalconic acids	1		2	1
		I3-Pyridine carboxylic acids		1		
	M-Glycines	8	3	4	2	

For more information about Goings on in the Back Paddock contact:

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Next Issue

- Training venues & times for all states
- Planning now for 2008 saves time and dollars
- Ordering aerial photos for NSW & Vic
- Irrigation water copied
- Manager makes farming easier at Bencubbin WA

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