



## WELCOME

Thank you for requesting more information about Crop Circle Consulting.

We hope you find the information in this portfolio enlightening and we welcome any queries or comments you may have.



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**Grant Thompson**

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## About Us

Crop Circle Consulting is based in Geraldton, the central hub of the northern agricultural region in Western Australia. The region is a world leader in lupin (*lupinus angustifolius*) production, as well as producing quality hard and noodle wheats, malting and feed barley, canola, chickpeas, oats, triticale and grazing pastures. The region ranges from light textured grey sandy soils, through to deep loamy sand yellow sandplain soils, acidic wadjil soils, red loamy sand soils through to heavy red clay loam soils overlying limestone.

Director and agronomist Grant Thompson has been working alongside and consulting to farmers in the area for many years. Grant grew up working alongside his parents on a 29000 hectare (72000 acre) grain and livestock property in the Mullewa region, and credits his direction in agriculture to his father Ken, who taught him the inner workings of the farm from an early age.

Grant has been working as an agronomist and consultant to farmers in the northern agricultural region for almost 20 years. As a contractor to national leading Agribusiness LANDMARK, he provides agronomy support to their customers and is also involved in a comprehensive research program, as well as liaising with a team of agronomists throughout Australia. A keen interest in the development of liquid fertiliser practices in the region gave Grant the opportunity to travel to Canada to meet with liquid fertiliser and machinery companies and attend a liquid fertiliser conference. This also provided an opportunity to visit farmers and agronomists in the fluid fertiliser arena.

In recent times, our R&D efforts have been focused on creating new farming systems and strategies to combat climate variability, control exotic summer and winter weeds, storing and managing soil water and increasing farm productivity and profitability using fallow systems, residual herbicides and herbicide tolerant crops. This work culminated in a 3 year, 3 location, 3400 plot project funded by the GRDC, utilizing R&D contractors and partners. As optimists, here at Crop Circle Consulting, we believe that the future of agriculture is a bright one. Adopting new technology, managing climate variability, improving our farming environment and our carbon footprint will be the key to making agriculture sustainable and profitable into the future.

## Research Project Work: Crop Circle Consulting

- Evaluation of Loveland Fitness Fungicide against other market competitors and efficacy when tankmixed with foliar fertilisers on Yellow Leaf spot in wheat
- Evaluation of Loveland Liberate, MSO and LI700 Adjuvants compared to other market leading adjuvants on Brome Grass control with Group B Grass Sprays Monza, Crusader and Atlantis in Wheat.
- Evaluation of Loveland Liberate, LI700 and Uptake Oil with Bayer herbicides Velocity and Precept on Wild Radish Control in wheat.
- Evaluation of Loveland Adjuvants Liberate, MSO and LI700 against other market leading adjuvants on control of ryegrass and barley grass with Clethodim and Atrazine in TT Canola.
- Herbicide Tolerance of Tanjil, Wonga, Belara, Tallerack, Kalya, Gunguru and Quilnock lupins to 14 post emergent broadleaf weed control herbicide mixtures – herbicide efficacy, crop tolerance and yield. 2001
- Herbicide Tolerance of legume pasture species to 14 post emergent herbicides 2001
- Lupin Variety Evaluation 2002 Eradu
- Evaluation of solid v liquid NPKS and UAN fertilisers with Trace element additives in wheat Eradu 2003
- Broadleaf control in cereals with Flexi N and water carriers Mullewa 2004
- Alternative herbicide mixtures for control of herbicide resistant Radish in wheat 2005
- GRDC – Row spacing x seed rate in cereals in the low rainfall zone.
- Manager of Landmark Pasture Systems Technology site Eradu 2005-2006.
- Agronomic package for new semi-drought tolerant wheat varieties in the low rainfall zone 2008
- Deep Ripping Sandplain soils prior to wheat 2008



## Research Project Work: Crop Circle Consulting (cont.)

- Evaluation of current cereal varieties for bio-ethanol production 2008
- Oilseeds of WA TT canola variety evaluation 2008
- Irwin Valley Alkaloid Manipulation in Mandelup and Coromup Lupins for Food Production 2009
- Controlling small and emerging ryegrass with new herbicides in wheat 2010
- DIM chemistry evaluation on resistant ryegrass in lupins 2010
- Oilseeds of WA RR vs TT canola variety and gross margin Evaluation 2010
- Development of alternative herbicide mixes for control of winter and summer weeds using selective spot spraying technology 2010
- Control of Sclerotinia in hybrid RR canola at East Chapman using Rovral and Prosaro Fungicides 2011
- Evaluation of herbicides, adjuvants and spray conditions to control BUTTON GRASS 2011 North East Farming Futures Group
- Oilseeds of WA TT OP and Hybrid variety evaluation Eradu 2011.
- Pacific Seeds Canola Technology Centre RR and TT varieties – Eradu 2012
- Alternative modes of action for control of herbicide resistant radish and ryegrass in a 14 month old E. borealis and E. polybractea plantation. Carbon Conscious 2012
- BEST PRACTICE FOR MANAGEMENT OF MULTIPLE AND STACKED HERBICIDE GROUP RESISTANT RADISH with herbicides 2013-2014
- GRDC - Improving spray fallow techniques for better moisture conservation, better winter and summer weed control – 2015 – 2017 3400 plots using RR, RT, TT, IT, CL wheat and barley and conventional wheat and barley. Mullewa, Mingenew and Wyalkatchem.

## Research programs performed by Crop Circle Consulting

### 2000 - present date

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18 years doing large and small plot work for GRDC, Irwin Valley, Carbon Conscious, Loveland Industries, CSBP, OMEX, Pacific Seeds, Summit, IAMA, DOW Agrosiences, Oilseeds of WA, and other herbicide, fungicide and adjuvant development and evaluation work, including all application work with hand booms, rating efficacy and harvesting, sampling and statistical analysis. GRDC funded research projects ranging from \$25,000 small plot work to \$330,000 systems trials over 3 years.

### 1998 – 1999

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1998-1999 - Regional and Fee for service agronomist for IAMA at Mingenew – numerous herbicide, insecticide and fertiliser spray trials using spray bikes, cone seeders and plot harvesters.

### 1996 – 1997

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60-70 trials a year research program at Wesfarmers CSBP Ltd – pegging, planting, spraying, mowing, monitoring, harvest, statistical analysis and report writing crop nutrition trials, from Binnu in the North to Esperance in the South. Wheat, lupin, canola crops and grass and legume pastures.

## Equipment

- 8m spray trailer boom or 2.5 and 3m CO2 pressurized hand booms
- 2m cone seeder, usual contractor Landmark RnD, Leigh Nairn, Living Farm or DPIRD.
- Plot harvesting – usual contractor Landmark RnD and have used Living Farm and DPIRD.



## Associates

### **Melissa Welsh**

With 15 years' experience working in the Australian grains sector, primarily with small research and development organisations and a large multinational agricultural chemical business, Melissa brings a range of skills primarily in grains research and development from on the ground research to higher level project management of technical projects.



During Melissa's career she has worked on various projects including development of new chemistry (discovery chemistry) right through to commercialisation, re-registration of old chemistry, creative research to register old products for new use patterns and managing residue work. This work included conducting field research and project managing other researchers to conduct field work. Melissa has managed larger projects from initiating field research (including trial design) with various contractors across Australia, working with state department researchers, various labs for residue work, analysing and summarising large amounts of data to then develop labels for products and technical material, as well as reports for submission to agencies such as the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary medicines authority to register products for use. Melissa also has experience in writing scientific reports for submission to various conferences.

Melissa has a strong understanding of the processes and information required to take a new product or idea to market from the research phase through to the registration phase and beyond. Over this time Melissa has also built strong relationships with a large network of people within state agricultural departments, the private sector, national funding bodies and on the ground level with growers, consultants and other stakeholders.

Thank you for taking the time to browse through this portfolio.

We look forward to discussing any Research and Development opportunities and building partnerships with you and your team.

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR  
YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR FAMILY, OUR PLANET.**



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