

Harvesting and marketing kabuli chickpeas



a new era in seed technology

australian agricultural
CROP TECHNOLOGIES

Characteristics

Kabuli chickpeas are large pale seed that need to remain unstained to received full market premium. They are traded whole, not decorticated like the desi type so an intact unstained seed coat is required.

Several things can cause staining on the seed which are to be avoided wherever possible.

Fungal staining will occur when the ripe or almost ripe seed is exposed to prolonged or repeated moisture. While there is nothing that can be done about rain at harvest it is important to recognise this issue and get ripe crops off as soon as possible to minimise risk.

Dirt staining is a risk after rain. Given the above comment it is very tempting to go back onto a paddock too early and harvest before the crop and the soil is dry enough, this will cause mud to flick up onto the seed and cause problems with dirt on the grain. While it is tempting to get the crop of quickly after rain it can cause these types of problems.

High moisture can also cause discoloration so again don't be tempted to go in too early after any rain at harvest.

Green stain will occur if they are harvested with standing green weeds like radish or thistle. If you know that these are likely to be a problem it may be worth spraying with an appropriate herbicide mix to curl them over just prior to harvest.

Marketing

The price received for kabuli chickpeas is largely determined by seed size. Genesis 090 (predominantly 7-8mm) can currently trade (30 October 2009) at \$525 delivered local depot Wee Waa which is \$120 above current desi prices. (DAILY PRICES WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE – www.aacroptech.com as from first week of November.)

The larger seeded Genesis 114 with most seed being 9mm so the price received will be higher than for Genesis 090. Historical markets indicate that a further \$75-100/t can be received for Genesis 114, this advantage being greater if the product is size graded as each mm seed size increase over 7mm attracts a price increase of \$75-100

Graded seed size	Indicative price per tonne sized
7mm	\$50 - \$70/t above desi
8mm	\$75 - \$100/t over 7mm
9mm	\$75 - \$100/t over 8mm
10mm	\$75 - \$100/t over 9mm