



GRAIN SORGHUM AGRONOMIC INFORMATION

The Benefits of Open Headed Grain Sorghum Varieties over Closed Headed Varieties:

- **A decreased likelihood of Heliothis infestation, due to a more open environment with less protection from beneficial predators**
- **A decreased likelihood of Rutherglen bug infestation, due to a more open environment with less protection from beneficial predators**
- **A more effective insect control from better penetration and exposure of pests to the chemical application from spray programmes for Heliothis, Rutherglen Bug and Sorghum Midge**
- **A more even ripening of grain due to the more open branches on the head allowing better exposure to sunlight and heat, making an easier harvest**
- **They are quicker to dry down under moist conditions at harvest, and therefore quicker to harvest**
- **There is significantly less chance of sprouting in the head from constantly moist conditions after ripening**
- **The physical structure of the open head , with longer branches so that the grain sits further away from the main stem, also makes it quicker and easier to harvest**
- **There is absolutely NO yield penalty from an open headed variety**
- **There is NO benefit anywhere from having a closed headed variety- it is purely a cosmetic effect, with no advantage at all in increased yield, lower pest infestations, improved pest control, quicker drydown, ease of harvest , less sprouting in the head, or harvest security**
- **The open head is simply derived from having longer branches on the panicle (head) on which the seed is set, than the shorter branches on a closed headed variety. There are no less seeds, and the seeds are not smaller**
- **Yield is purely a function of the amount of grains per hectare multiplied by the weight of those individual grains- head type has absolutely nothing to do with determining the yield-it is just a matter of looks**
- **A simple comparison of any open headed variety next to a closed headed type is to cut both heads off at the flag leaf, and hold them upside down-you will then get a more realistic view of the amount of grain set and weight of the heads**
- **Open heads are a desirable trait that we can breed for**