What did we learn in 2025 that may help us this year?

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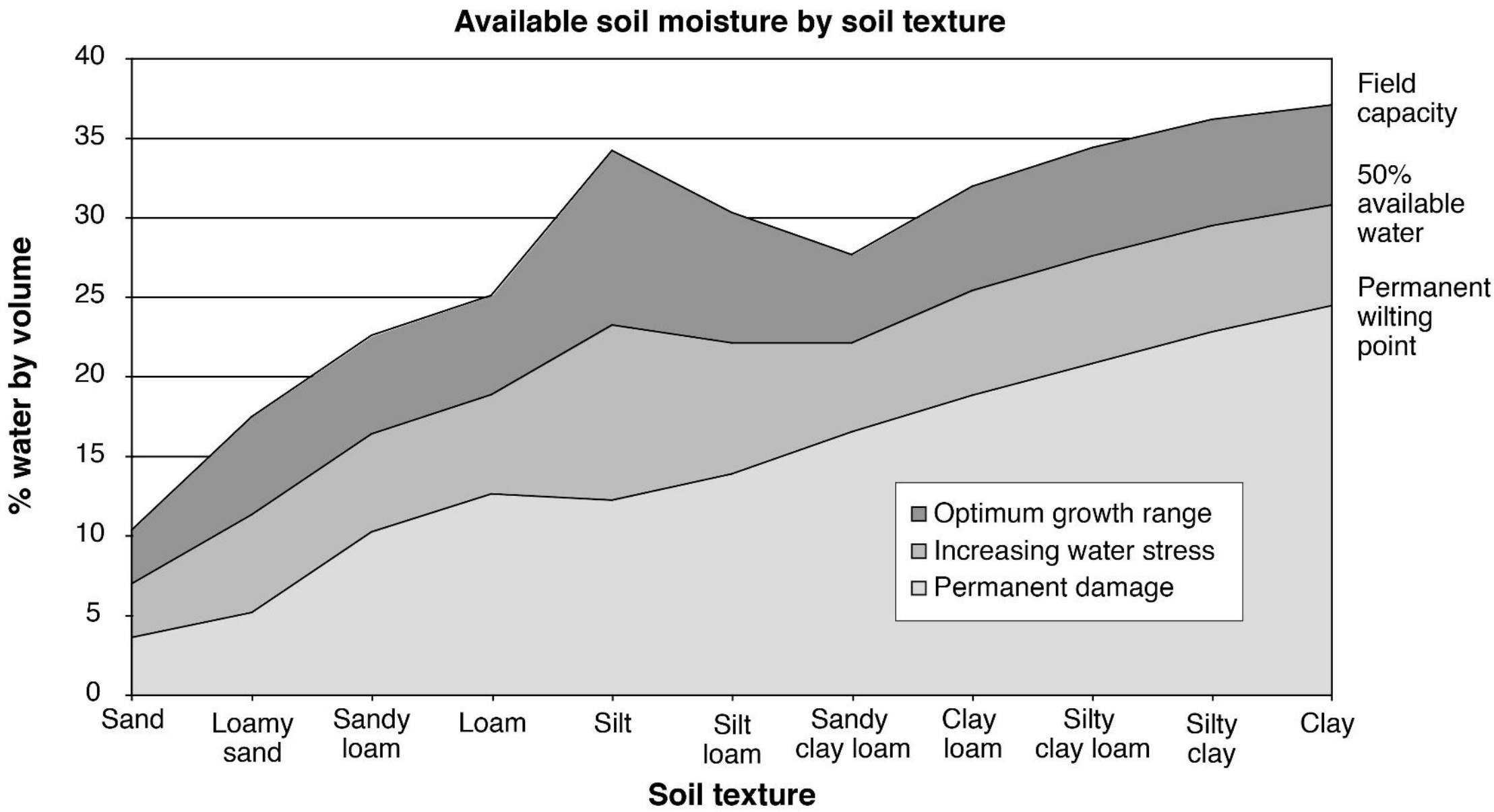


2025 Season Summary

- Ranged from best to worst season ever in the same state
- Herbicide residue planning
- Dry sowing into REALLY dry soils (again)
- Stakes were high financially
- Low stubble loads
- Excellent pre-emergent safety
- Spring rainfall…
- Staggering water use numbers in a dry season with no frost
- We can still “blow up” our crops
- Time of sowing is still king

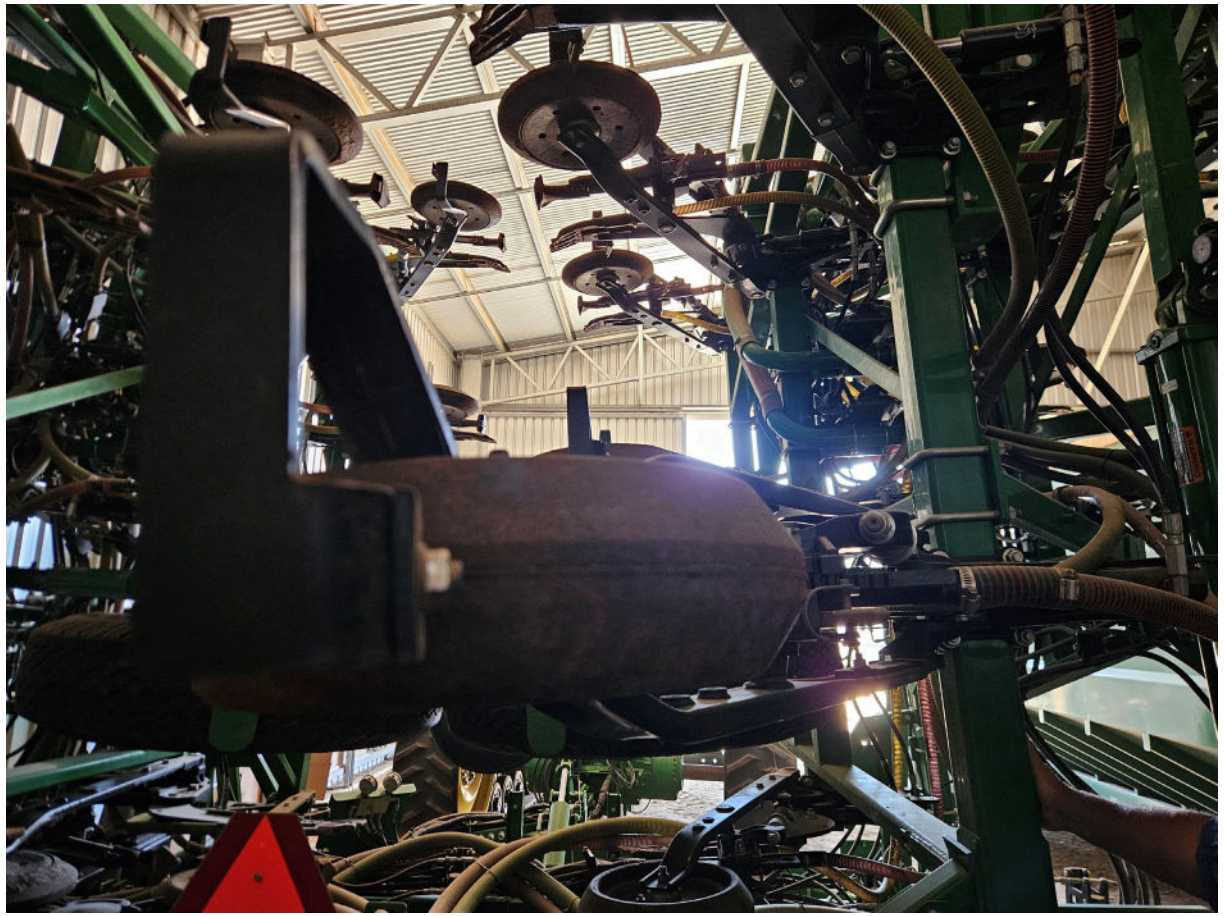
2025 Actual 0-10cm Soil Moisture

Sample	Wet	Dry	Grav %	Vol %	Texture
1	104.6	102.3	2.2	3.1	Clay Loam
2	123.6	118.6	4.0	5.7	Clay Loam
3	107.4	104.3	2.9	4.0	Clay Loam
4	103	99.1	3.8	5.3	Clay Loam
5	115.2	110.2	4.3	6.1	Clay Loam
6	120.7	117.4	2.7	3.8	Clay Loam
7	101.3	99.1	2.2	3.0	Clay Loam
8	64.6	63.4	1.9	2.6	Silty Loam
9	101	97.9	3.1	4.3	Clay Loam
10	94.7	91.4	3.5	4.9	Clay Loam
11	87	86	1.1	1.6	Sandy Loam
12	100.4	94.4	6.0	8.4	Sandy Clay Loam
13	117.5	111.2	5.4	7.5	Sandy Clay Loam
14	91.4	85.9	6.0	8.4	Sandy Clay Loam


Available soil moisture by soil texture
% water by volume
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Sand
Loamy sand
Sandy loam
Loam
Silt
Silt loam
Sandy clay loam
Clay loam
Silty clay loam
Silty clay
Clay
Soil texture
Field capacity
50% available water
Permanent wilting point
Optimum growth range
Increasing water stress
Permanent damage

Seeder Set Up








Phosphorus is still pretty important...

Paddock	Nitrogen (kg/ha)	Plant Avail. Water (mm)	Sulphur (kg/ha)
2	90	-15	154
4	147	-14	105
8	98	-19	89
B1/2	61	-55	72
H50	104	-51	50
Toms Knob	145	-7	115
Home 9	79	-5	148
Home 7	105	-1	491
Steeles	77	-28	335
Hill	127	-29	62
CB	114	-32	56
Gulnare	106	-23	77
Clauds 2	87	-16	65
Old House	35	24	60
Middle	76	68	120
Bidgoods	117	-9	59
11/12/13	53	-6	26
14	39	49	86

Stubble Loads

- You don’t need much stubble to make a difference
- 1t/ha minimum for sowing pulses/canola, particularly on lighter soil types
- Makes herbicide management a lot simpler





Pre-Emergent Herbicides

- Modern seeding systems are generally pretty safe
- Understand solubility and organic matter binding of different herbicides
- Silt and free lime have very low herbicide fixing ability
- My modus operandi…



How is 2026 different so far?

- Subsoil moisture?
- We are getting some nitrogen mineralisation pending point 1
- Minimal herbicide residue issues
- We have better stubble residues to sow into
- Most people had a better financial year, but inputs…



Strategies moving forward

- Measure deep soil N and water
- Use a shovel





Strategies moving forward

- Measure deep soil N and water
- Use a shovel
- Be careful dry sowing saline soils
- Early sowing can rapidly deplete soil moisture by growing excessive biomass
- Autumn volunteer weed control is VITAL
- Early and stupid early sowing
- Know your pre-ems to get the best out of them
- Know you finish date and work back from there

