

# Dry inoculant has edge

WA company Alosca Technologies has developed a range of dry granular legume inoculants which are providing growers with a number of operational and risk management advantages over the more traditional wet slurry method of inoculation.

Alosca application flexibility is set to broaden with top-dressing improved inoculant strains onto existing clover seed banks now a reality and under-sowing technologies gaining momentum.

The Alosca dry granule range is based on a clay granule impregnated with commercial strains of nitrogen fixing bacteria. Alosca dry granules activate on the same seasonal moisture triggers as the sown legume.

The bacteria are protected until favourable moisture conditions prevail, and then as the seed is germinating, the granule softens releasing the bacteria for soil colonisation and the subsequent

nodulation process to commence.

Alosca technical manager Chris Poole said: "The unique protective characteristics of our dry granular range has been recognised by growers and researchers alike and has seen it drawn into the development of new and innovative legume seeding methods like under-sowing with hard-seeded pasture varieties and top-dressing."

The company's investment in evaluation of top-dressing has primarily been driven by anecdotal reports from growers.

"We now have glasshouse and field data to support what growers have been seeing over the past couple of seasons," Mr Poole said.

Alosca inoculants will play a continuing role in the evaluation and development of twin sowing technology.

Alosca will be exhibiting at the forthcoming WANTFA Conference at The Vines Resort in the



Swan Valley as part of their regional update program.

More information: Contact Alosca Technologies on 9446 1533 or visit [www.alosca.com.au](http://www.alosca.com.au)

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# Mallee industry deepens its roots

THE organisers of the inaugural National Mallee Conference were pleased to have secured a date for their conference which follows on from the WANTFA conference. The initiative by WANTFA in taking their no-till system to the rest of Australia is an inspiration to the mallee industry to do the same.

Like WANTFA, the development of the integrated mallee agroforestry and farming system was developed by farmers in collaboration with government and research bodies and follows the long tradition of innovation and experimentation by government departments and bodies such as CSIRO, the University of WA and commercial interests.

The message that WA farmers are innovative, will adopt proven farming systems and thereby respond to climate change and improved knowledge on sustainable practices is common to both WANTFA and the Oil Mallee Association (OMA).

The other message is that knowledge is best passed on first hand and subjected to debate and robust discussion.

Adoption is the theme of the oil mallee conference and the program has been designed (like the WANTFA conference program) to appeal to farmers.

The OMA is hopeful delegates to WANTFA will extend their stay at the Vines and

attend the oil mallee conference and that oil mallee delegates will do likewise.

The main difference between the conferences is the involvement of processing interests and others involved in improvements to the value chain for the mallee products.

The challenges and opportunities of linking the farm to the future uses of the harvested biomass are of paramount importance and will engage the attention of the delegates.

In addition there will be discussion of the very topical subject of forest sinks where carbon sequestration has been shown to be cost



Kalannie farmer and oil mallee grower Ian Stanley plants a mallee tree in Canberra to symbolise the extension of the mallee industry across Australia.

effective when designed and implemented with mallees which are planted in "alleys" across the dry land agricultural landscape.

More information: Phone 9433 1244, email [info@oilmallee.com.au](mailto:info@oilmallee.com.au) or visit [www.oilmallee.com.au](http://www.oilmallee.com.au)

# Innovative family business

PLOUGHING a paddock is a time-consuming and tedious job.

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Farm Innovations, a Bayswater company owned and operated by Frank Jarvis, manufactures no-till points that can make the job a lot easier.

Mr Jarvis said the family-owned company produced a wide range of equipment.

"The company's aim is to provide equipment that assists farmers produce healthy crops while maintaining optimum soil health," Mr Jarvis said.

"We make points, sub-soiling machines,

reversible mould board ploughs and many other things for the farming community."

As well as recycling points and making them from scratch to suit a farmer's needs, Farm Innovations can rebuild existing points to prolong their life.

From a farming background in Queensland, Mr Jarvis has been in the farm engineering business since 1978 with humble beginnings in a car shed, relocating to Bayswater in 1981 where today, operations are run from a fully equipped engineering factory.

More information: Farm Innovations, phone 9272 1189 or fax 9272 1244.

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