

Illabong growing guide

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Illabong is a semi-dwarf Arborio style medium grain variety with high yield potential only grown in the Murray Valley.

Yield potential

The yield potential of Illabong is 108% of Reiziq^A.

Table 1. Grain yield of Illabong from research experiments and commercial fields in the Murray Valley.

Variety	4-year experiment average yields (t/ha)	4-year grower average yields (t/ha)	Top 20% of growers 4- year average yield (t/ha)
Illabong	12.3	10.8	12.3

Establishment vigour

Experiments show Illabong to have weak establishment vigour. Care must be taken with seed placement to ensure adequate establishment.

Sowing method and date

All sowing methods are suitable for growing Illabong. The recommended sowing and first flush windows for Illabong are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Target sow and first flush dates for Illabong across different sowing methods in the Murray Valley.

Variety	Murray Valley - Ideal sow/first flush time		
	Aerial/Dry Broadcast	Drill	Delayed permanent water
Illabong	15 to 31 Oct	5 to 25 Oct	1 to 15 Oct

Sowing earlier or later than recommended will increase the risk of exposure to low temperatures during microspore and flowering, which can reduce grain yield. Recommended sowing times are aimed at ensuring the critical microspore and flowering periods align with the period of least risk of low temperatures (Figure 1).

		October						November				December				January							February									
		5	10	15	20	25	31	5	10							3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	31	3	6	9	12	15	18	
Murray Valley	Aerial				Sowing											PI																
	Drill		First flush																						MS		Flower					
	DPW	First flush																														

Figure 1. Recommended sowing and first flush times for Illabong and the subsequent panicle initiation (PI), microspore (MS) and flowering timings when sown in the recommended period for each sowing method in the Murray Valley. Hatched area shows time of least risk of low temperatures.

Sowing rate

Illabong should be sown between 130 and 150 kg/ha for all sowing methods, aiming to establish between 100 to 200 plants m². Sowing rate may vary from year to year depending on the germination percentage of the seed, check with SunRice for details.

Cold tolerance

Illabong has a moderate tolerance to cold stress during the early pollen microspore and flowering periods.

Plant height

Illabong is on average 85 cm in height, 4 cm taller than Reiziq^A.

Lodging potential

Illabong is moderately resistant to lodging but it can be induced by applying excessive nitrogen pre-permanent water (PW).

Grain shattering

Illabong is resistant to shedding grain after maturity.

Nitrogen management

Illabong nitrogen applications should be **split 70:30 between pre-PW and PI** to reduce cold susceptibility risks. Applying higher than required rates of nitrogen pre-PW increases a rice crops susceptibility to cold stress more than extra nitrogen applied at panicle initiation.

It is recommended to apply between **160 and 250 kg/ha urea** to Illabong pre-PW to reduce cold susceptibility. Fields with a history of legumes may require less nitrogen pre-PW and some continuous crop fields with heavy clay soils may require more nitrogen.

Any major nitrogen variability within the field should be addressed with variable rate pre-PW nitrogen applications. Red edge imagery of previous rice crops grown in the field are a good resource for identifying within field nitrogen variability.

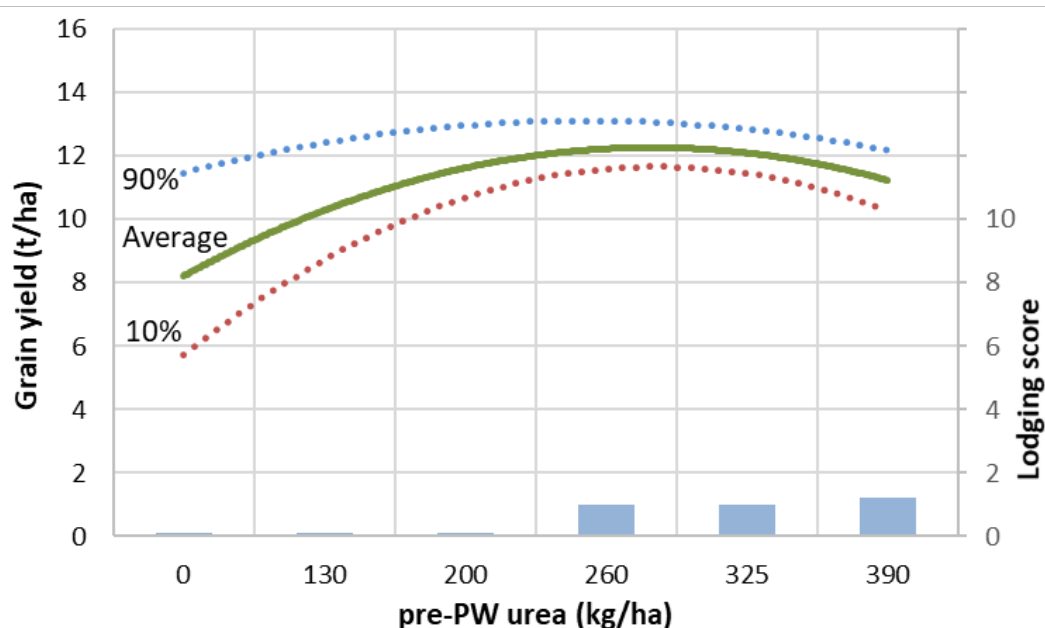


Figure 2. Illabong grain yield (average, 10 and 90 percentile) and average lodging score (0=standing, 10=flat) results for pre-PW nitrogen application rates (no PI applied nitrogen). Results from 96 plots in 8 experiments conducted over 5 seasons covering a range of soil types, fertility levels and sowing methods.

Illabong has lower nitrogen requirements than Reiziq^A to reach its maximum yield potential, (Figure 3) and it requires different timing of the nitrogen inputs.

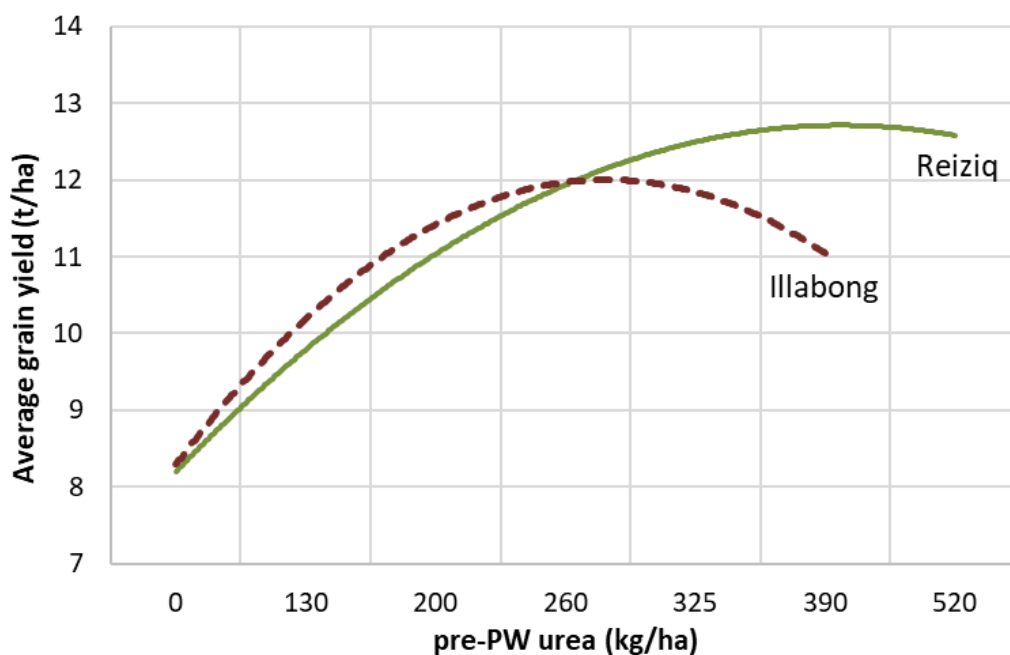


Figure 3. Average grain yields for Illabong compared to Reiziq^A across a range of pre-permanent water nitrogen applications.

Panicle initiation nitrogen

Illabong produces a high grain yield with less lodging and reduced cold susceptibility when nitrogen is split between pre-PW and PI.

For maximum grain yield with reduced lodging it is important to use red edge imagery and the NIR Tissue Test to determine PI nitrogen topdressing rates. Higher than required nitrogen rates applied at PI can increase lodging and reduce profitability.

An experiment at Jerilderie in the 2019/20 season showed the split nitrogen treatment produced a higher grain yield than when all the nitrogen was applied pre-PW to Illabong (Figure 4).

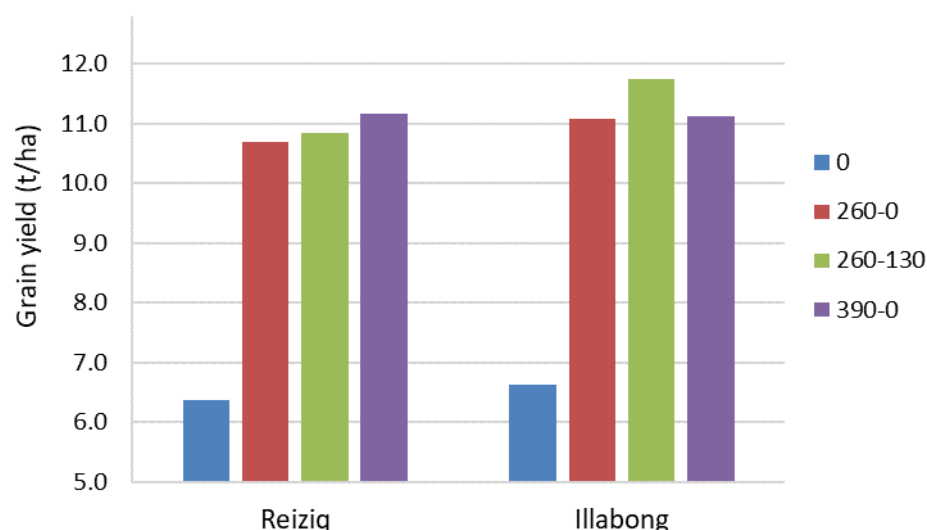


Figure 4. Grain yield for Reiziq^A and Illabong from a nitrogen rate by timing experiment conducted at Jerilderie in the 2019/20 season.

Harvest

Be prepared to commence harvest as soon as the grain moisture drops to 22%. Delaying harvest will increase the risk of lodging which can cause difficult harvesting conditions and reduce grain quality.

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