



**NORTHERN**

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GRAINS RESEARCH  
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# SAFFLOWER

## SECTION 13

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## STORAGE

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## Storage

Safflower is lighter than wheat and more easily lost from the tops of trucks or bulk bins travelling at speed. Loads should be covered securely to minimise losses. Transport costs can also be higher because of the lower bulk density, which means that a truck can carry a greater weight of cereal than of safflower seed in a given volume. Safflower can be sold directly to crushing plants or to other markets or stored on-farm.<sup>1</sup>

### 13.1 How to store product on-farm

Safflower should be stored with a grain moisture <8% to prevent mould production and deterioration with heat.

There are four key best practice strategies that provide good results for on farm storage. When combined, they form the foundation for successful storage and importantly, a grower can build a reputation as a reliable supplier of quality grain.

**Aeration:** correctly designed and managed, will provide cool grain temperatures and uniform grain moisture conditions. The result is reduced problems with grain moulds and insect pests in storage, plus the ability to maintain grain quality attributes such as germination, pulse seed colour, oil quality and flour quality.

**Hygiene:** a good standard of storage facility hygiene is crucial in keeping storage pest numbers to a minimum and reducing the risk of grain contamination.

**Monitoring:** monthly checking of grain in storage for insect pests (sieving / trapping) and at the same time inspect grain quality and temperature. Keep a monthly storage record to record these details, including any grain treatments you applied.

**Fumigation:** in Australia we now only have gases (fumigation) to deal with insect pest infestations in stored grain. To achieve effective fumigations the storage/silo must be sealable — gas-tight (AS2628) to hold the gas concentration for the required time.<sup>2</sup>

### 13.2 Pests of stored grain

Stored seed is vulnerable to common insect pests of stored grain, and harvest preparations should include cleaning and disinfesting harvesters, storage facilities and other equipment used to handle seed.<sup>3</sup>

Grain Storage Information Hotline: 1800 WEEVIL (1800 933 845) will put you in contact with your nearest grain storage specialist.

For more information on storing oilseeds, see [GrowNotes: Sunflowers](#).

<sup>1</sup> N Wachsmann, T Potter, R Byrne, S Knights (2010) Raising the bar with better safflower agronomy. Agronomic information and safflower case studies. GRDC, <http://www.grdc.com.au/BetterSafflowerAgronomy>

<sup>2</sup> P Burrill (2016) Part I Achieving great aeration results and Part II Silo recirculation as an aid to fumigation. GRDC Update Papers 20 July 2016. <https://grdc.com.au/Research-and-Development/GRDC-Update-Papers/2016/07/Part-I-Achieving-great-aeration-results-and-Part-II-Silo-recirculation-as-an-aid-to-fumigation>

<sup>3</sup> N Wachsmann, T Potter, R Byrne, S Knights (2010) Raising the bar with better safflower agronomy. Agronomic information and safflower case studies. GRDC, <http://www.grdc.com.au/BetterSafflowerAgronomy>