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# Shearing Time and Vegetable Matter Contamination

Produced for the CRC for Premium Quality Wool undergraduate program by;  
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# Effect of shearing time and location on VM components in the NSW clip

- 4 shearing times: summer, autumn, winter, spring
- time of shearing:
  - generally not successful in reducing total VM% in fleece wool, except for CW slopes and plains (summer < winter, autumn)
  - may have value in reducing contamination from individual species (esp. seed contamination) but most favourable time depends on location:
    - time of seed maturation
      - length of seed retention period

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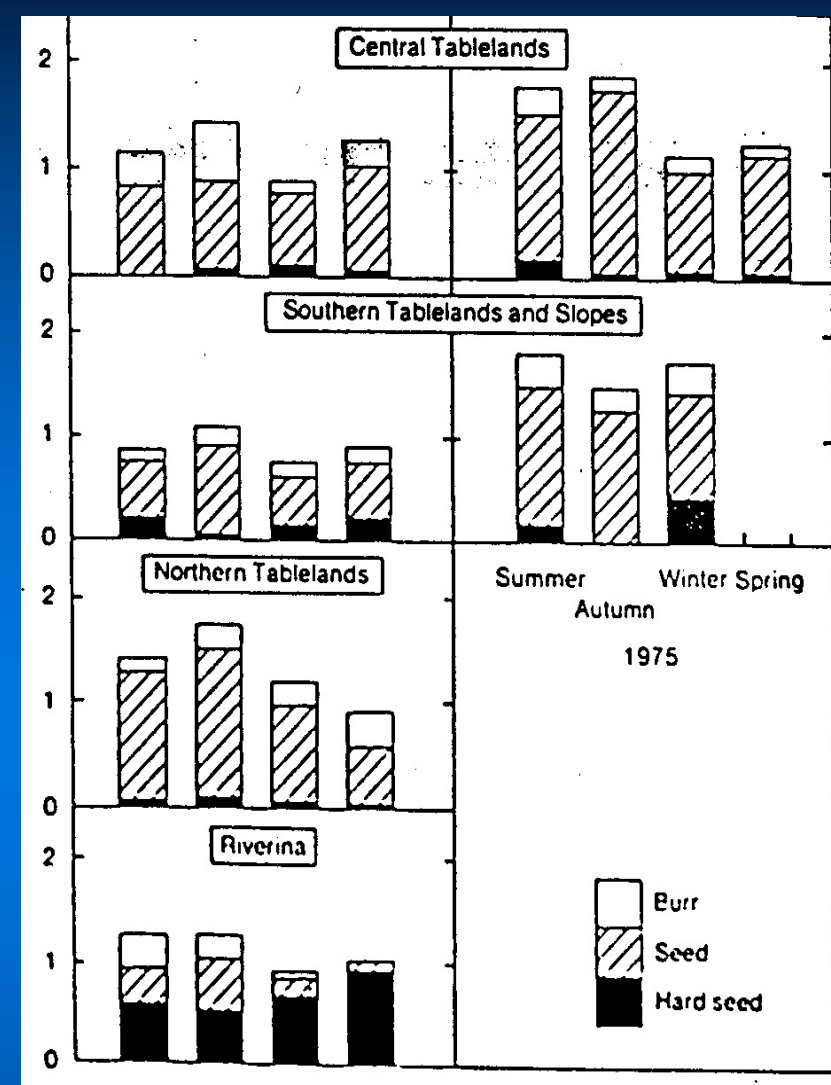
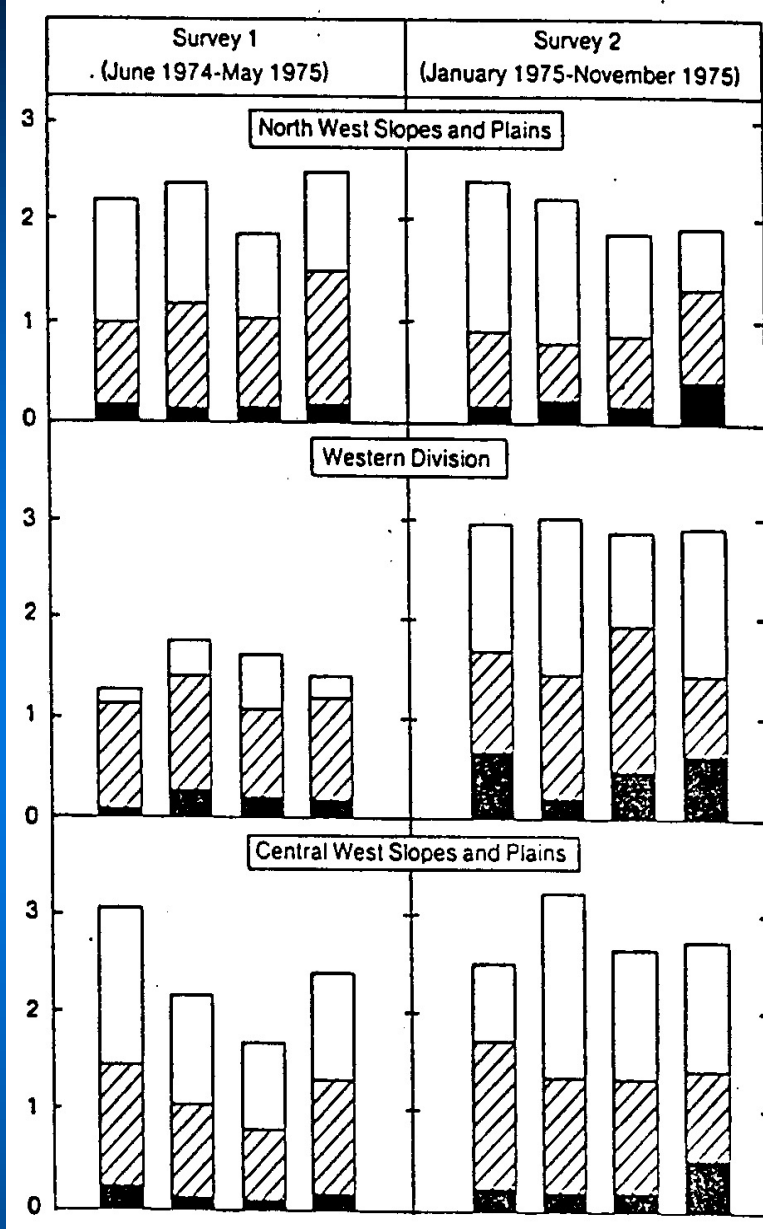
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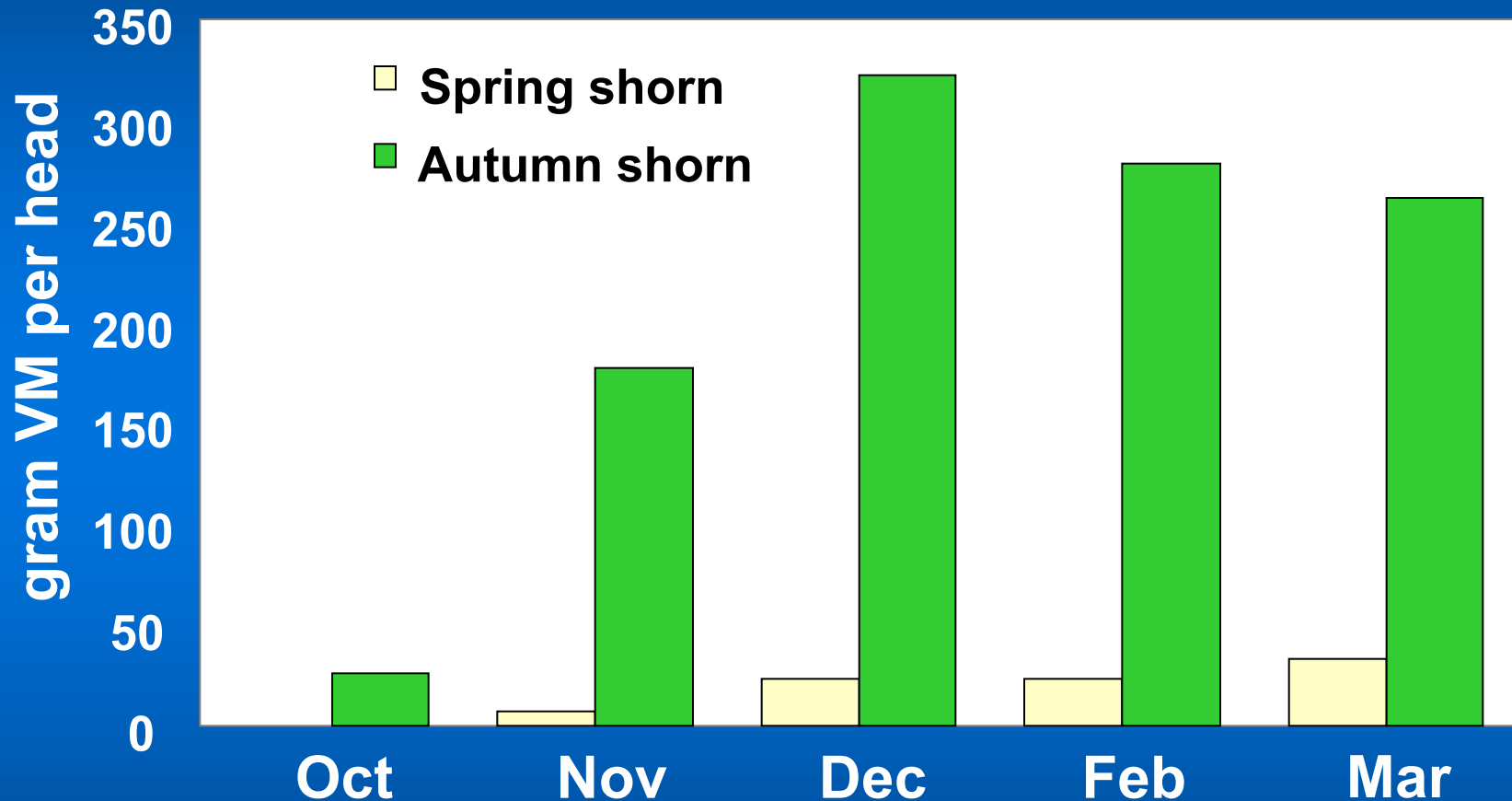
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Winter  
Spring  
Summer  
Autumn



# Accumulation of seed/shive in spring and autumn shorn Merino sheep grazing grass-dominant pasture over spring to autumn period at Katanning, WA



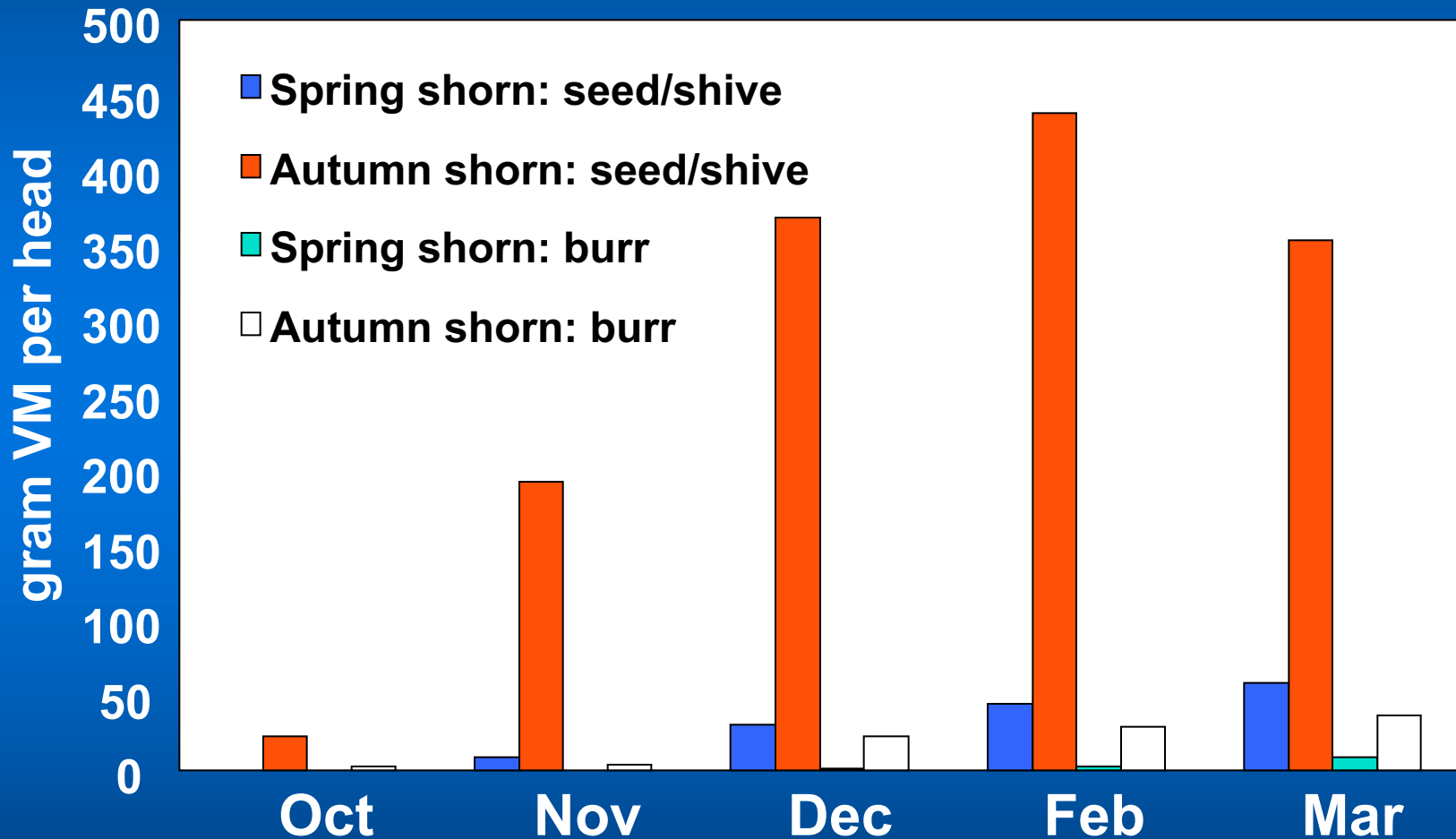
Difference in accumulation rate between autumn & spring shearing of 10:1.

Brad Crook  
Source: Ritchie (1992)





# Accumulation of seed/shive and burr in spring and autumn shorn Merino sheep grazing mixed pasture over spring-autumn period at Katanning, WA



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# VM fault and seed penetration of skin in lambs grazing seed infested pasture Oct-Dec, Central West NSW

Two breeds: Merino and XB

Two shearing groups: October shorn (S) and unshorn (U)

	Merino		XB		Signif. of diff.	
	S	U	S	U	Breed	Shear.
% Barley grass <sup>+</sup>	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.8	*	*
% Storksbill <sup>+</sup>	0.1	1.0	0.6	3.1	*	*
% Medic burr <sup>+</sup>	1.7	23.2	0.6	16.9	*	*
Skin penetration <sup>++</sup>	0.0	5.7	0.7	7.0	n.s.	*

+ as % of greasy wool weight  
 ++ no. seeds per 6 cm<sup>2</sup>