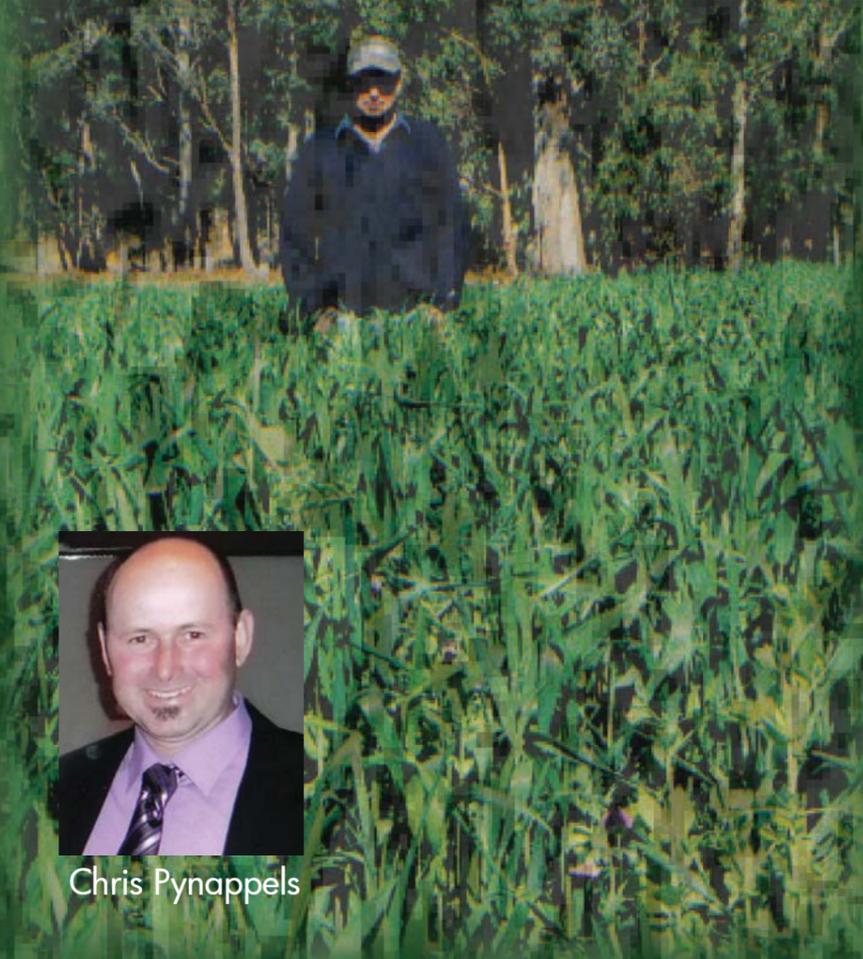


# Chiltern Lodge

*Chemical free garlic production*

**C & L Pynappels at Glen Elgin**



Chris Pynappels

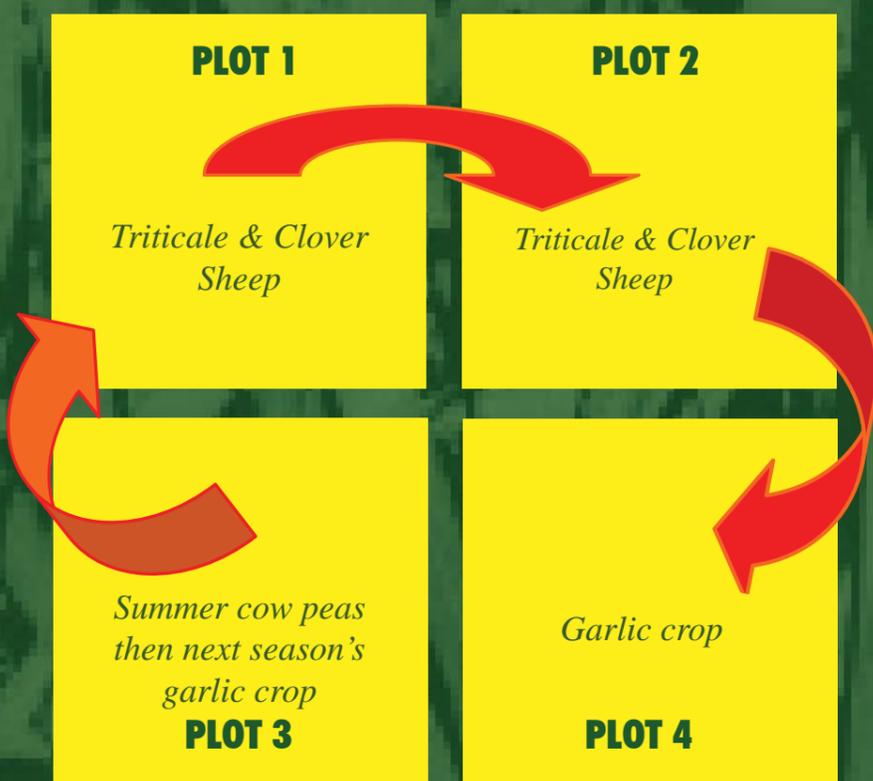


Russian garlic

## Background

Chris and Lynda Pynappels have allocated a small portion of their Eastern Fall property to the growing of chemical free garlic and substantial vegetable production as a personal lifestyle choice. Three years ago, Chris purchased 400kg of organic garlic seed stock and planted out one acre plot. Now into their 4th growing season, the Pynappels have established four one acre plots through which garlic is rotated on an annual basis.

"Garlic is a heavy feeder," says Chris. "We must add lots of organic matter to the soil prior to planting and fertilise the growing crop. Triticale and clover are grown on the fallow plots and disced into the soil ahead of a garlic crop. Cow peas are planted as a summer nitrogen-fixing crop and disced into the ground just before planting garlic in March."



**Left:** Diagram of Chris' current crop rotation practices with sheep included as part of his forward property management planning.

## Fertilizer regime

Agricultural lime is a first pre-crop fertilizer, followed by 'Natramin' to up phosphate levels. 'Dynamic Lifter' or 'Organic Life' is then applied to increase blood/bone content.

Once the garlic crop is planted, it is heavily mulched with a certified organic cane mulch to retain water and reduce competition from weeds.

Liquid 'Seasol' is applied as a foliar spray every two weeks for the first four months of the garlic's growth.

Harvest commences in late November and is finished by mid December each year. Chris has modified a potato harvester to loosen the garlic from the soil. It is then collected by hand and delivered to the sorting shed where it is tied by the stems into bunches and hung over timber rails for maximum aeration. This allows the garlic bulbs to clove ready for sale.

## Forward planning

Chris plans to incorporate Dorper sheep into his existing crop rotation plan over the garlic paddocks. This will provide added manure to these plots and supplement the Pynappels' existing meat sources.

