



Farm Weekly(WA)

Thursday 17/09/2009

Page: 10
Section: Supplements
Region: WA, AU
Circulation: 13745
Type: Rural
Size: 179.84 sq.cms.



slice
slicemedia.com

press clip

New technology in canola crop

WA'S most important commercial broadleaf break crop achieved record production highs in 2008.

According to the Agriculture and Food Department, 1.1 million tonnes of canola grain were reaped from a sown area of 620,000 hectares.

It was a stunning achievement. Nonetheless, it's one that could be dwarfed in coming years if potential new technologies can be introduced.

Farmers who grow canola will have no doubt about the benefits it brings to their wheat-based farming systems.

These include more flexibility in controlling both grass and broadleaf weeds, managing the problem of herbicide resistance, circumventing cereal root disease issues and yield improvements to the following cereal crop.

And according to farmer and agronomist Clinton Mullan, the next exciting advance in canola management is hopefully just around the corner.

He believes the evidence is stacking up that WA growers would reap immediate agronomic benefits, which should also lead to economic benefits, through the adoption of Roundup Ready canola.

This year, Clinton conducted a Roundup Ready canola trial on his Dudinin farm Deadfinish.

He's observed the crop and recently hosted a field day to show the technology to other growers.

As he sees it, Clinton wants to provide 'real' information to local growers so they can make an informed choice as to whether they would like to adopt the technology or not.

And as the season has progressed, Clinton has been happy to host a number of farm visits for all members of the community which recently included ladies of the local Facey Group.



□ Clinton Mullan

In his Roundup Ready trial, Clinton grew 30ha of the current Nuseed Roundup Ready canola variety GT61.

For comparison, the rest of the paddock was sown to another Nuseed canola variety in ATR Cobbler. Cobbler is a premium early to early-mid season TT variety, of medium short plant height suited to 250 to 500mm rainfall seasons.

The Roundup Ready GT61 was planted dry on May 20. It germinated on rain that followed, just after sowing.

Sown in the same paddock, Cobbler was planted a day later into moisture.

Also in the paddock is a Nufarm trial investigating different herbicide systems in canola on common local weeds, along with a NVT canola trial, testing newer, up and coming varieties.

"I'm always interested to test new technology in farming, so trialing Roundup Ready canola was an exciting opportunity," Clinton said.

"While there's a lot of hype around the pros and cons of GM, it is important to first understand if the basics of a crop system are going to work. For me the main factor in this situation was weed control.

"So far I've been very happy with weed control. I purposely put the demonstration in a paddock with moderate pressure of both grass and broadleaf weeds."