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Monola's a goldmine

WHO: Liveringa Pastoral Company, Jalaran
WHERE: Wagin
WHAT: Monola
AVERAGE RAINFALL: 418 mm

By Kate Matthews

THROUGHOUT the growing season, Scott Williams, farm manager of the well-known Wagin property Jalaran, noticed their 200ha Monola 76TT crop had been more vigorous and aggressive than three other canola varieties sown close by.

The Liveringa Pastoral Company is one of six growers across the Great Southern growing the Nuseed variety for commercial processing.

It's also being grown at 12 National Variety trials across the State, in five Oilseeds WA trials, an independent trial in York and in breeder-screening trials to provide canola breeders with local data on variety performance.

Monola's oil profile contains less than 7 per cent saturated fat, which is lower than the alternatives and has been awarded the Heart Foundation's 'Tick of Approval'.

At Jalaran, it's their first encounter with Monola and according to Scott, the plants are bigger with more pods in comparison to Beacon, which is planted across 1000ha.

"Over the past three years we have increased our canola crop from 800ha to 1300ha and now it's a third of our program," Scott said.

"Monola has a good fit with our program and you get a \$45 per tonne premium when you lock in your price," Scott said.

Using an air seeder, all the canola, including two

40ha trials of Cobbler and Tanami, were sown on nine-inch spacings using a Maxim 3 Morris to a depth of 10mm and sown at a rate of 4.5kg per ha.

"This was the last year we could get Beacon seed and to fill the gap, we are going with testing out to see how Cobbler and Tanami go."

With Monola also in the ring to choose from for next year, the decision will be made after harvest.

"This year's growing season has been fairly good. We've had a lot of good rains coming through – it hasn't got cold like it did last year and the crops have managed to keep growing throughout the season."

"We've had a couple of small frosts, and we did have a big one two months ago. Last year at the break of the season, it was bitterly cold and stayed cold right the way through and this year, I believe it's been a bit milder."

Scott said they were hoping to yield between 1.3 and 1.5 t/ha from the canola and have their fingers crossed for a bit more rain and sunshine to finish off the season.

"We don't need a great deal of rain, just a couple of finishing rains, 10-20mm in October would be fine."

Scott said they should be swathing in around four weeks and once the Monola was harvested, it would be stored on-farm and carted to Riverland Oilseed Processor's crushing plant in Pinjarra.

The seed will then be processed for export to domestic customers on the east and is already on the market under the brand name 'Crisco Endura'.

On the Wagin property they also grow wheat and oats.



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