



press clip

# Sold on Monola bonus

By SARAH SLEE

**T**HE premium offered for Monola specialty canola makes the decision to grow the crop a simple one, says Kalangadoo grower, Scott Tucker.

Scott grew Monola for the second time last season and intends to increase area sown to the specialty oilseed this year.

Scott's 77TT Monola yielded 2.5 tonnes a hectare with oil content of 44.6 per cent and he received a premium payment over canola.

With the seed cost of Monola being on-par with other non-specialty Nuseed lines, the variety was even more attractive.

"We were contemplating putting canola in, but when we saw the premium put up for Monola, we thought we would be silly not to grow it," Scott said.

"It's not like a new crop that's going to be risky to grow, and Monola's yields and oil content are as good as commodity canola, so it really is a true premium that's being offered."

Scott, with parents Richard and Judi, and brother Glenn, runs a 1000ha mixed farming operation including orchards, vineyard, small seeds and hay production, and a 2500-head ewe flock for prime lamb production in the South East.

The decision was made last year to branch into broadacre cropping, and Scott said triazine-tolerant Monola (group C chemistry) was a great fit for his system, allowing him to conserve the more susceptible-to-resistance Group A and B chemistry for later in the cropping rotation.

"The benefit of TTs is that we can come out of pastures with ryegrass and use simazine and atrazine to great effect. In our pivot area we come straight out of established pastures, so we need good, prolonged weed control," Scott said.

Weeds have not been an issue in Monola during the two years the crop has been grown.

"Both last year and the year before, we went in with the standard label rates of simazine and

atrazine, and no follow-up weed control was needed. It was very easy," he said.

Monola was put in as a cash crop, and the decision has paid off.

"In the two years we've grown Monola, we've had good results both times, the premium has been there both years and the delivery system is fantastic, so there's no reason to change. We're on a good thing, so we're going to stick to it."

Scott delivers to Riverland Oilseeds at Millicent.

"I just let the factory know that I'm coming the day before, or even on the day, and there's not even the slightest hiccup with the delivery system there, it's perfect."

Scott plans to extend his broad-acre operation this year to include wheat and peas, and will sow about 100ha of Monola in areas with a high grass-weed burden.

Growers delivering Monola to Riverland Oilseeds at Millicent have three options to market their Monola – participating in forward markets through fixed tonnage contracts with Riverland Oilseeds, warehousing, and/or accepting a cash price on the day of delivery to the Millicent plant.

The marketing of Monola through Riverland Oilseeds is very price-transparent, based on the ASX canola futures market or the daily cash price, whichever was higher. The same premiums and discounts regarding canola specifications apply for Monola.

Loads are sampled and weighed at the ABB receival point in Millicent before being unloaded at Riverland Oilseeds' crushing plant.

The highest oil content recorded this year at the plant was 48.8pc for a load of Monola, while the highest canola oil was 47pc.

Riverland Oilseeds operations manager Nick Edwards said higher oil content in the grain assisted in the crushing process, and that growers had been impressed by the bonus paid for Monola.

"We've been getting good feed-

back from growers as far away as Edenhope (in Victoria)," he said.

NuSeed's South Australian representative Sam Price described Monola as a specialty canola oilseed variety, containing "unique" traits derived from conventional breeding methods.

"Essentially Monola is a more versatile version of traditional canola oil. The high oleic properties (monounsaturated fats) of Monola oil enable wider end-use application, such as deep frying – an end-use that canola isn't suited to because of instability of the oil at high temperatures," Sam said.

"Growers and advisers should look at the Monola varieties as high performance alternatives to the traditional TT varieties on offer."

"With the market outlook for cereals in 2010 looking modest, growing Monola TT this year may provide a good opportunity to set paddocks up for cereals in 2011."

Becoming a Monola grower is straightforward. Growers were required to have an NGR number and sign a 'Monola grower contract', available through their nearest Monola retailer.

"With a limit to the contracts available and going on last season's feedback, I would encourage interested growers to contact their nearest Monola retail store or NuSeed promptly, to avoid missing the opportunity for 2010," he said.

The premium for Monola in the 2010 season will be \$35/tonne.

• Details: Sam Price 0409 662 968

## 5CriticalFactors

- 1 High oil content
- 2 \$35 premium to be paid this year
- 3 TT enables good weed control
- 4 Wider end-use application of oil
- 5 Good delivery system



press clip



**WEED CONTROL:** Scott Tucker, Kalangadoo, is growing Monola as a cash crop, and to establish good weed control. He plans to increase area sown to the oilseed this season, with a \$35 a tonne premium over canola.