

King Rock stands out at Kellerberrin

KELLERBERRIN farmers Phillip and Eric Innes have just finished harvesting their King Rock wheat and taking into consideration the harshness of the season, they are very pleased with the results.

Yield across 433 hectares ranged from 1.0 to 1.4 tonnes a hectare, screenings ranged between 1.5 and 4.4 per cent and hectolitre weight was 411 to 421.

Both Phillip and Eric said of the wheat varieties they grew in 2010, which included Yitpi, Fortune, Wyalkatchem and Binu, King Rock's early vigour was an absolute standout in this very tough season.

Faster crop establishment delivered very good early competition against weeds.

The Innes's, used to grow Bonnie Rock but the risk of rust scared them off.

Developed by Dr Robyn McLean and the InterGrain team in WA, King Rock was launched as an official Bonnie Rock replacement in 2010.

Through a backcrossing strategy and utilising Bonnie Rock's distinguishing attributes, Dr McLean and her team bred triple rust-resistance and quality into the new variety.

So King Rock has the excellent high yielding, high grain quality characteristics of WA's premium AH variety,

boosted by a superior rust package.

The Innes's believe the mid-season line of King Rock has been a good replacement.

"We generally have a crack at everything on this farm and screenings in this area are a real enemy," Phillip said.

"Because of high screenings we kicked Tammarin Rock and Stiletto out of the program this year. They were just too much hassle."

Phillip admits a 30mm rainfall event on March 28 was a seasonal saviour.

Growing season rainfall that followed was well below average and ranged between 130mm and 160mm across their farms.

Now that there is good quality King Rock grain in the bin, the next question to answer is what to do with the seed?

Phillip and Eric admit they like the option of listing it on SeedPool.

SeedPool was first developed and implemented in 2008 by InterGrain and Nuseed.

Now in its third season, SeedPool enables easy and straightforward 'farmer to farmer' access to the seed of WA's elite new generation InterGrain varieties.

The growers' contact details, the InterGrain varieties they have available and their location are posted on the SeedPool website - free of cost.

In 2008 and 2009 the website was recognised as an innovative way of ensuring growers can rapidly access new varieties from local growers, and buy seed in an open traded market.

As part of the SeedPool process, producers of InterGrain varieties also have access to the SureSeed quality assurance program.

SureSeed was a facility that Phillip and Eric took advantage of in 2010 and their King Rock has been SureSeed accredited, at their own expense.

"I just thought if I was buying seed I would want some sort of assurance that it was pure," Phillip said.

SureSeed accreditation means growers that buy the Innes's King Rock seed will know it has been inspected and certified for varietal purity, is of known physical quality and any presence of weed seeds or nominated seed-borne diseases have been disclosed.

Only when seed purity, germination, weed seed identification and other tests are completed, can a certificate of analysis headed 'SureSeed Program' be issued.

This certificate should be requested by buyers and is the primary document that is used to determine that the quality of the seed meets their needs, particularly where seed is sold in bulk.

Farmer's interested in contacting growers that want to sell the new generation InterGrain wheat varieties should look up the website at: <http://www.seedpool.com.au>.

As the harvest continues and into the new year more names and contact details will be added.



□ Kellerberrin farmer Phillip Innes (right), with farm worker Drew Kent and Phillip's nephew Mitch Innes (centre) said he liked the option of listing his King Rock seed on SeedPool. Now in its third season, SeedPool enables easy and straightforward 'farmer to farmer' access to the seed of WA's elite new generation InterGrain varieties.

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