



## Roundup Ready® Canola An Ordinary Farming Practice

The removal of moratoria on commercial planting in Victoria and NSW means farmers will be able to choose to use Roundup Ready canola technology for the 2008 planting season, although the area available will be less than 1% of the total expected canola crop this year.

Roundup Ready is a weed control system like “Clearfield” or “Triazine Tolerant” canola. If the Roundup Ready trait is incorporated into canola varieties, the crop can be sprayed with Roundup or any other approved glyphosate formulations to achieve excellent in-crop weed control.

In all other respects, Roundup Ready canola is like any other type of canola.

It has been suggested by detractors that growing Roundup Ready canola creates new farming risks or even new legal risks that farmers have not experienced before. In fact, the extensive safety testing and review of Roundup Ready canola by Federal Government agencies shows that it is just as safe as conventional canola. Legal experts have also reviewed genetically modified (GM) crops in Australia, New Zealand and around the world and concluded that growing approved GM crops is exactly the same as growing existing crops in respect of legal and liability questions.

### Presence doesn't equal damage

Following good agricultural practice allows growers to produce crops that meet the expectations of grain buyers. Growers know that a low level presence of wheat in a barley crop does not lead to liability, but steps need to be taken to minimise such mixing.

The same is true for GM crops, a low level presence of approved GM canola in conventional canola does not alter the marketability or value of the conventional canola. This is confirmed by the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF)

The AOF canola standard makes the following distinction:

**Canola (Standard CSO1):** being either GM or non-GM canola at any level of admixture of OGTR-approved events (an “event” is a specific type of GM canola, for example Roundup Ready)

**Non-GM canola (Standard CSO1-1):** canola with OGTR-approved GM canola events at levels below 0.9%.

Several reports commissioned in Australia have concluded that Common Law is sufficient to deal with any issues should they arise from growing GM crops. ACIL Tasman in its report entitled *Managing genetically modified crops in Australia* notes that:

- The use of legal remedies by farmers or the grains industry has been rare. Where the courts have been called upon to manage disputes, Common Law has proved adequate, especially over the past 20 years where the rate of technological change has been rapid.
- By its nature, Common Law is flexible and provides a ‘bottom up’ approach to establishing property rights. There is no evidence to suggest that the commercial introduction of OGTR-approved GM crops will pose problems that are beyond the scope of informal resolution or the Common Law.

### Coexistence is not new

The canola industry has already adopted production protocols and successfully manages identity preservation systems for new markets such as specialty canola with different oil profiles, condiment mustards, industrial oilseeds and *Brassica Juncea* types of oilseed.

For more information contact:

Monsanto Australia	Anna Hall	03 9522 7122
Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia	James Holden	07 4637 2966
Nuseed	Andy Thomas	03 9282 1000
Pacific Seeds	David Strong	03 9339 9555

