



Make a good break crop better with the Roundup Ready® system



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For many growers across Western Australia canola is essentially a break crop for cereals that has provided more reliable returns than other break crops such as lupins.

¹ According to DAFWA, “the benefits of having canola in the farming system [are]: more flexibility in controlling broadleaf weeds; combating herbicide resistance; controlling cereal root diseases; and increased yields of the following cereal crop”.

² Break crops (e.g. pulses, lupins, canola, oats) underpin the continued profitability of cereal (wheat or barley) based cropping sequences.

It follows that growers desire maximum benefits from their break crop and that these benefits be as reliable as possible.

In 2010 Roundup Ready® canola was made commercially available to WA growers as an alternative to the other commercially available herbicide tolerant canola systems such as the widely employed triazine tolerant system.

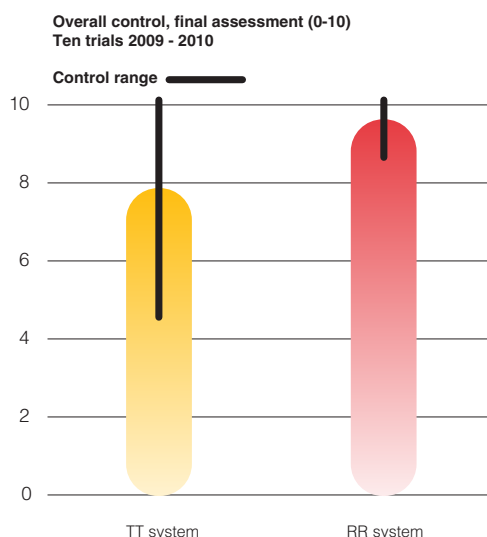
Over the last two growing seasons, 2009 and 2010, Nufarm Australia ran systems trials across Western Australia to investigate the performance of the herbicide tolerant systems commercially available for the break crop canola. (sites: Eradu, Dudinin, South Stirling and Gibson in 2009; Wongan Hills, Badgingarra, Cunderdin, Merredin, Quindanning and Tunney in 2010)

Figure 1 demonstrates the reliability of weed control achieved by the Roundup Ready® canola system when compared with the triazine tolerant (TT) system.

The data summarised by Figure 1. show that not only did the Roundup Ready® system provide the best weed control when compared with TT, it also provided the most reliable weed control as evidenced by the small range in variability of that control across all sites, and this small range was almost entirely the result of minor subsequent germination. The wide range in control experienced in the other system was the result of inconsistent control of Annual ryegrass because of various degrees of resistance to Group A herbicides.

This means that the Roundup Ready® system provides an improvement in the reliability of canola as a break crop by providing more effective and reliable weed control, particularly but not exclusively ryegrass, over a range of conditions.

Figure 1:
Mean overall weed control & control range.



1. Department of Agriculture & Food Western Australia website “Cropping” (2010) http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_93599.html?s=0
2. M. J. Robertson A E, R. A. Lawes A, A. Bathgate B, F. Byrne B, P. White C, R. Sands D (2010) Determinants of the proportion of break crops on Western Australian broadacre farms. Crop and Pasture Science 61(3) 203-213

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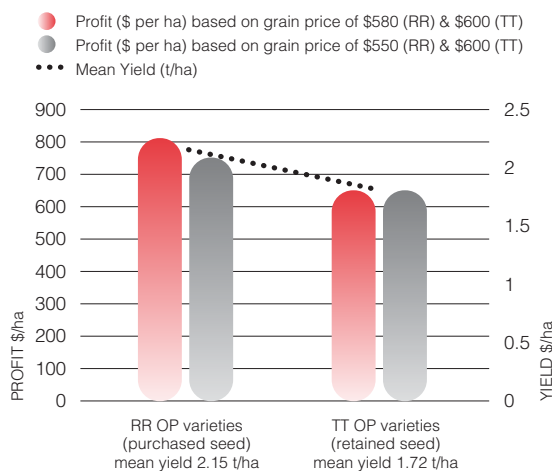
Roundup Ready® canola's profitability & yield performance when compared with TT.

Data from these systems trials have also demonstrated that Roundup Ready® canola is generally higher yielding and more profitable than the TT system.

Figure 2 below summarises both the yields and profitability of the Roundup Ready® system in comparison to the TT system.

The figure above also summarises profitability of the Roundup Ready® system when the cash price gap between GM & non-GM canola of \$20/tonne and the projected price gap of \$50/tonne is considered.

Figure 2:
Profit and Yield Comparison between
RR & TT systems*



Systems data used herein was provided in March 2011 by NUFARM Ltd. R&D Department Western Australia and was generated in 2009 and 2010. This data remains the property of NUFARM Ltd.

* System profitability comparisons shown in Figure 2 is derived by meaning individual profitability of varietal entries across all trials. Profitability equals gross income (yield with bonification adjustment) less system specific costs i.e. costs that are unique to each system (includes seed, EPR, fees, royalties, herbicides, adjuvants & application costs) less an additional \$350/ha to account for other costs common to each system (i.e. all other farm costs associated with growing canola excluding depreciation & grain delivery. Note TT calculations are based on retained seed at \$1.50 per kg

Summary:

- Roundup Ready® system provides better weed control
- Roundup Ready® system provides more reliable weed control
- Roundup Ready® open pollinated canola provides higher yields than TT canola
- Roundup Ready® open pollinated canola, based on this research, provides higher profit than TT canola
- Roundup Ready® open pollinated canola varieties, when used in conjunction with Roundup Ready® Herbicide, make a good canola break crop better.

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