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OILSEEDS NEWS

SOYBEANS IN DEMAND

An expected critical shortage of food-quality soybeans for the domestic market will send prices skyrocketing this season, according to The Riverina's biggest soybean marketer.



Tom Graham of Graham Riverina Grains in

WATER EFFICIENT: Prices for new varieties of soybeans are expected to skyrocket.

Coleambally said that demand for the variety Djakal from the Riverina and northern Victoria will mean soybeans will soon reach \$600 a tonne on farm.

Soybeans are the only summer crop that can be sown as late as mid-December in the region.

“If we get big rains in November, soybeans are the only crop left,” he said.

Mr Graham said that he will offer growers contracts at sowing time.

Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard said that the beauty of the new varieties of soybeans like Djakal and Snowy was their early maturity, which allowed growers to use water more efficiently.

“Their early maturity means that the crop requires one less watering than older soybean varieties. It also means that a winter crop can be sown straight after harvest and make use of the remaining subsoil moisture.”

She said that soybeans used 40 to 50 per cent less water per hectare than rice.

Mr Graham said growers were holding off planting soys due to the price and tight supply of irrigation water.

“Water is being used around here to finish off wheat crops and rice is gobbling up the remaining water,” he said.

PLAN EARLY FOR CANOLA SEED

Australia’s canola seed marketers believe they will have sufficient seed available for next year’s canola crop, but growers are urged to get their orders in early if they want their first choice of variety.

Seed of new varieties will be in short supply, according to Dovuro/Nuseed Business Manager, Daryl Scollary.

“At this early stage, we are already receiving significant orders for 2007 planting,” he said.

He said that Dovuro/Nuseed had reasonable carryover stocks from the 2005 harvest. Most of the rainfed 2006 seed crops would not be harvested due to frost and drought, but the irrigated crops were holding up well.

“We certainly recommend that growers talk to their re-seller about securing seed if they plan to plant canola in 2007”.

Canola growers planning to use their own seed need to be aware of the pitfalls, according to Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard.

“Any canola seed retained for sowing next year’s crop should be tested for germination and vigour through an accredited seed testing laboratory,’ she said.

Seeds can also be analysed for other parameters such as weed seeds and weight determination to help calculate sowing rates.
