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## **OILSEEDS NEWS**

### **CANOLA FIELD TRIALS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**

Canola growers, extension officers, researchers and advisors in Victoria and the Riverina can now find out what's happening in their local areas in the world of paddock-based canola research.

Felicity Pritchard, Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, has developed a list of more than 120 field trials and demonstrations in the regions for 2007, along with contacts for each site. It has been posted under the "agronomy centre" section of the Australian Oilseeds Federation website.

Ms Pritchard said that users can easily sort data to find out what research is being undertaken locally. The scope of the research ranged from variety trials, breeding, nutrition, dual purpose canola, disease management and basic agronomic management like sowing rates, row spacing and time of sowing.

To view the list, look up

[www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy\\_centre/variety\\_and\\_agronomy\\_trials](http://www.australianoilseeds.com/agronomy_centre/variety_and_agronomy_trials).

**Media enquiries: Felicity Pritchard (03) 5382 4396.**

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## RESEARCH TO KEEP CANOLA ONE STEP AHEAD OF BLACKLEG

A canola researcher hopes to come up with new strategies for managing the potentially devastating disease, blackleg in the long-term.



**DURABLE:** Wimmera grower, Rolf Hedt, is sowing a canola trial to prevent canola disease resistance breaking down again.

varieties with different genetic sources of blackleg resistance, individual strains of the blackleg fungus should not build up to extreme levels – potentially putting the entire canola industry at risk.

The “blackleg resistance durability” trials, being undertaken through the Birchip Cropping Group and the Wallup Topcrop Group at Rolf Hedt’s property at Kalkee, north of Horsham, were sown yesterday.

Mr Hedt’s property was chosen for the three hectare trial as he has not grown canola since 1993.

He said he was keen to be involved to learn more about canola varieties in an era of rapid change within the industry.

“If it gets wet again, I want to be up-to-date with the latest information on canola,” he said.

Canola pathologist, Steve Marcroft, is undertaking the research in the Wimmera to prevent a repeat of the 2003 season when the disease decimated canola crops in South Australia, following the continued use of certain popular varieties that allowed a single strain of the disease-causing fungus to overcome the blackleg resistance in those varieties.

Dr Marcroft believes that if farmers can rotate canola

Mr Hedt said that his property already received 208 millimetres (mm) of rain this year, compared with only 179 mm for the entire year in 2006.

**Media enquiries: Steve Marcroft (03) 5381 2294.**

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## 2005 CANOLA DISEASE CARRYOVER WARNING

Growers in southern New South Wales this year will need to be extra careful when choosing where to sow canola this season and selecting varieties according to latest research. Unlike normal seasons, canola stubble from two seasons ago presents a potential disease problem.

Wagga Wagga-based canola pathologist, Tamrika Hind-Lanoiselet said that the drought in the region in 2006 followed by a fairly dry summer have delayed the ripening of the fungal spores responsible for the disease, blackleg, developing on stubble.



**CARRYOVER:** Stubble from 2005 canola crops can pose a bigger disease threat than the 2006 crop stubble due to the drought.

Canola growers in the region are advised to select disease resistant varieties and ensure their crops are sown no closer than 500 metres from 2005 and 2006 canola paddocks, to prevent potential blackleg infection.

Dr Hind-Lanoiselet, of the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, said blackleg spores from the 2005 crop were close to maturity, whereas those on last year's stubble were still immature and did not pose a threat to this year's canola.

“Moisture is the main factor affecting the ripening of blackleg spores. Because of the drought, the spores on the 2005 stubble has by-passed a season,” she said.



**BLACKLEG RISK:** Canola growers in Southern NSW need to take extra care this year to isolate canola crops from two year old stubble.

This warning is in contrast with recommendations following a normal season, which encourages growers to sow canola no less than 500 metres from last year's canola stubble. Disease resistant varieties are also critical in managing blackleg, and fungicides can be used in high risk situations.

Dr Hind-Lanoiselet said that computer simulation models for Wagga Wagga suggest the release of spores from stubble of canola grown last year will begin to occur on 15 June. The models have been developed by Dr. Moin Salam of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food.

She warned that fungicide seed dressings only provide protection for about four weeks from sowing, and this may not be sufficient for less disease-resistant varieties sown before the fourth week of May.

Dr Hind-Lanoiselet intends to undertake an economic analysis of research data to determine if a foliar fungicide spray will be cost effective this season in southern New South Wales.

**Media enquires: Tamrika Hind-Lanoiselet, 02 6938 1608.**

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