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OILSEEDS NEWS

NEW CHEMICAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS TO PROTECT CANOLA MARKETS



CANOLA COMPLIANCE: Growers and exporters are responsible to comply with export market maximum residue limits.

PHOTO: FELICITY PRITCHARD, ICF.

marketing requirements and advice to growers, to avoid putting the industry at risk from grain that does not comply with importing country requirements.

The Australian canola industry has developed a series of documents to help growers, storers and handlers minimise the risk of chemical residues on canola, following the detection of residues of the pesticide, fenitrothion, in canola for export to Japan that were above the Japanese maximum residue limit (MRL).

Australian Oilseeds Federation has released the documents, which provides information on

Fenitrothion is not registered in any situation for use in-field on the canola plant, as a post-harvest treatment of canola or as a structural treatment where canola will subsequently be stored following

application of the structural treatment. Low level MRLs for some chemicals are set in Australia to cater for the unintended presence of low levels that may be present on structures and subsequently transferred to canola.

The maximum residue limit (MRL) for fenitrothion in canola sold domestically is 0.1 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). But Japan - a major customer of Australian canola - has no MRL, and defaults to a uniform limit of one-tenth of this at 0.01 mg/kg.

“Before treating any canola in Australia, growers and industry should be aware of the market acceptance of residues on canola and the MRLs that apply in each market,” the document warns.

“It is the responsibility of growers and exporters to ensure that exported canola complies with the Australian MRLs as well as the MRLs or import tolerances of the destination country.

Hard copies are currently being printed. To obtain an electronic or hard copy of the documents, contact Felicity Pritchard on 0427 600 228.

Media enquiries: Rosemary Richards, Australian Oilseeds Federation, (02) 9427 6999.

CANOLA GROWERS OPTIMISTIC AT BCG EXPO

The enthusiasm for canola at the recent Birchip Cropping Group Expo was “enormous”, according to managers of the national oilseed agronomy project, ‘Better Oilseeds’, Steve Marcroft and Sue Knights.

Around 420 growers and other industry people walked through the door, in what Dr Marcroft described as “the most positive field day ever”.

“Everyone is very positive with the prices, seasonal



OPTIMISTIC: Canola was a focus at this month’s BCG Expo, keeping Steve Marcroft (left) and Sue Knights busy with enquiries.

PHOTO: SUSAN FINLAY, DPI VICTORIA

outlook, and in some areas, the option of escaping some of the effects of last year's drought by cutting canola crops for hay," he said.

The canola site focused on new technologies, including juncea canola, genetically modified (GM) types, hybrids, canola hay and dual purpose canola for as a 'graze and grain' option.

"The biggest interest was in canola hay, but there were also lots of questions about GM," said Dr Marcroft.

Dr Knights said there was a huge increase on numbers, compared with last year in the midst of the drought.

"I think the new format was a lot more successful. The guided tours helped facilitate discussions," she said.

Media enquiries: Steve Marcroft or Sue Knights (Tue, Thu): (03) 5362 2111.

TOPDRESSING TIME



HUNGRY CROP: Topdress canola before stem elongation if necessary.

PHOTO: FELICITY PRITCHARD, ICF.

Many canola crops will need topdressing with nitrogen fertiliser this year, and where this is the case, growers are being advised to "get it on early".

Oilseed Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard, said that most nitrogen uptake took place during the stem elongation phase of canola, so any topdressing should ideally be done before then.

“Some early-sown canola crops are already starting to run up, so growers and agronomist need to make a decision soon about topdressing” she said.

She said that topdressing decisions need to be based on the crop’s target yield and nitrogen levels already in the soil. The general “rule” is that a canola crop needs 80 kilograms per hectare (units) of nitrogen to produce one tonne per hectare of seed.

However, there will be also many paddocks which have enough available nitrate to meet the crop’s needs without any additional fertiliser, she said.

Rupanyup agronomist, Jeff Kraak, of Tyler’s Hardware and Rural Supples measured the soil nitrate levels and moisture between drill rows of 60 cereal and canola crops in the Rupanyup area during the last week of June. None of the paddocks had any nitrogen fertiliser pre-drilled.

Forty five per cent of paddocks tested had an average of 130 to 235 units of nitrogen, as nitrate. About half of these paddocks would need topdressing to achieve target yields, while many would not, he said.

The testing also showed good level of subsoil moisture, with more than half of the paddocks having between 100 and 168 millimetres of plant available water.

He has urged growers to ensure that no other nutrients, like sulphur were deficient.

“I haven’t seen sulphur deficiency around here yet, but I’ve seen it on other areas, like the Goulburn Valley,” he said.

Ms Pritchard said that canola crops appeared to be developing faster than usual. She put this down to the early time of sowing this year, and the warmer than average May temperatures.

Media enquiries: Jeff Kraak (03) 5385 5273 or Felicity Pritchard.

IRRIGATOR RESEARCH UPDATES IN AUGUST

The Grain Research and Development Corporation, along with the Irrigation Research and Extension Committee (IREC) and the Victorian Irrigated Cropping Council (VICC) are holding research updates for irrigators at Griffith and Barooga with the themes, “making the most from the water we have” and “coping with change”.

The Griffith update will be held at the Ex-Servicemen’s Club, Jondaryan Avenue, Griffith, with registration from 8:00 am on Tuesday 31 July and Wednesday 1 August. The Barooga Update is at the Sportsmen’s Club, Barooga on Thursday 2 August, with registration from 8:30 am.

The Update at Griffith will include a discussion on the national water plan, and will also include information on marketing, irrigation technology, and maximising water use efficiency with crops, including double cropping with soybeans.

The Barooga event, “coping with change”, also includes a discussion on the national water plan and what it means to irrigators with Dr James Horne, Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources. The day also includes information on agronomic management and breeding efforts to maximise water use efficiency of crops under irrigation. It will also cover issues related to soil health, climate change and cloud seeding.

For an agenda for the Griffith Update, contact Bryan Clark, IREC, on 0428 645 232. To obtain a program for the Barooga update, contact Rob Fisher, VICC, on 0428 545 263.
