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OILSEEDS NEWS - MEDIA RELEASES

GROWERS HAPPY WITH ROUNDUP READY CROPS

In its inaugural season in Victoria and New South Wales, growers are giving a thumbs-up to Roundup Ready® canola.



MONITORS: Agronomist Kate Burke with Better Oilseeds coordinator Steve Marcroft at the Wimmera canola herbicide “systems” trial.

PHOTO: Felicity Pritchard.

Monsanto Australia’s Tony May said that he had visited about 40 Roundup Ready® canola crops and preliminary feedback from growers was very positive.

“The feedback is that they are very happy with the

vigour of the (hybrid) crops, especially when compared with the TTs (triazine tolerant varieties),” said Mr May.

“The weed control has been very strong, especially where the growers have used two sprays, one early and another before the six-leaf stage.”

Mr May said that Roundup Ready® canola was the perfect fit for minimum till systems, when crops are sown dry with a heavy stubble cover and good follow-up rain. These crops have emerged much better than in conventional cultivation systems, he said.

Mr May said a benefit of the Roundup Ready® canola was the option of sowing the crop dry, enabling it to be sown early to maximise the length of the growing season.

“We have had a lot of interest from farmers, and now that they have had the opportunity to look at trial sites and commercial paddocks they can see the benefits for themselves.

Indications are that there will be a significant increase in plantings in 2009, given there will be far greater amount of seed available next year,” he said.

Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard, said that the national oilseed agronomy project, Better Oilseeds, is undertaking monitoring of a herbicide “systems” demonstration site in the Victorian Wimmera this season.

“The demonstration aims to allow farmers to see for themselves different canola varieties and hybrids with the three herbicide tolerance systems that we now have available for canola. Agronomists are monitoring the site closely to compare weed control in the different systems,” she said.

She said that the difference in vigour between the TT varieties and the Clearfield and Roundup Ready® hybrids was impressive.

“The hybrids are blessed with hybrid vigour, while the TTs unfortunately have an inherent yield penalty,” she said.

A field day will be held at the site later in the season.

RESEARCHER LOOKING FOR CANOLA CROP WITH APHIDS

Ryan Blackney, a researcher with Peracto in Werribee, would like to find a canola crop within Victoria with aphid problems for an insect management trial.

If you know of such a crop, please contact Ryan on 0408 126 637.

COUNT DOWN WAGGA INTERNATIONAL SAFFLOWER CONFERENCE



Delegates from across the globe will converge on Wagga Wagga in November for the 7th International Safflower Conference, and growers and advisors are encouraged to attend either the field day or the entire conference.

SAFF AND SOUND: Oilseed specialist and International Safflower Conference organisers Trent Potter (left) and Don McCaffery, are very happy with the newly emerged safflower trials at the Murrumbidgee Demonstration Farm, Coleambally.

PHOTO: Sue Knights.

Australia has been given a unique opportunity to

host the conference from 3 to 6 November, with the theme ‘Safflower: unexploited potential and world adaptability’.

Conference organiser, Sue Knights said the conference will kick off with a field day for growers and advisors at Murrumbidgee Demonstration Farm, Coleambally on Monday 3 November.

Those attending will be able to inspect current safflower varieties and agronomic practices and have the opportunity to interact with international experts on the crop.

Presentations will be held on the following days focussing on plant breeding, agronomy, quality, products and marketing.

“Interest in the conference has been strong with the submission of over 100 abstracts from around the world,” Dr Knights said.

“The vast majority of these are in the agronomy and breeding sessions, but interesting abstracts have been received in the quality and products sessions.”

Papers have now been received from over 14 countries including Canada, USA, Italy, Turkey, India, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, Morocco, the Czech Republic, Lebanon and Mexico

The 5 November will also form the annual Australian Oilseed Federation forum. The provisional line up for this day includes marketing sessions presented by Lorin DeBonte, Director of Research and Development, Cargill’s Specialty Oils who will speak on the global oil market and David Hoffsten, the Sales Manager of Adams Vegetable Oils who will address safflower markets.

Presentations on the use of safflower oil for biodiesel, nutraceuticals and industrial products will also be held during that day.

“There will also be a suite of papers on the biotechnological advances in safflower. The afternoon will showcase the production of safflower in various environments around the world,” said Dr Knights.

“This is a significant event which has been underwritten by the Australian Oilseeds Federation, for Australia’s small but growing safflower industry and will give our industry access to knowledge of international research, marketing and production of safflower.”

Sponsors include Devexco International, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Cargill, Goodman Fielder, Adams Australia, Twynam Agricultural Group, Cootamundra Oilseeds, CSIRO, Keith Seeds, Wagga Wagga City Council and the EH Graham Centre.

Dr Knights said that safflower is seen as an opportunity crop in Australia, often used for spring sowing if seasonal conditions are suitable. The later sowing of safflower gives more time for weed control and can help spread sowing and harvesting workloads.

Safflower’s deep roots and ability to extract water from deep in the soil profile allows reasonable yields even with little post-sowing rain and the crop helps reduce the build-up of cereal diseases. The deep root system also allows for the potential to extract nitrogen and other nutrients from a lower depth in profiles than cereal crops. International research has also shown that safflower can be produced in no-till systems, she said.

Additional information about the conference can be found at www.australianoilseeds.com .

For further information or media enquiries, please contact Sue Knights on (03) 5382 5427.

NEW SCLEROTINIA MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET

Hot off the press is a new factsheet for growers and agronomists for the management of the sporadic and serious disease, sclerotinia stem rot in canola.

The Canola Association of Australia, with the support of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), has released the factsheet.

Sclerotinia stem rot is a fungal disease that has emerged in some regions of Australia, particularly those with wet springs. Southern New South Wales and northeast Victoria are the main canola-



growing regions of Australia affected by the disease, although it has occurred also around Geelong and parts of Western Australia.

The disease affects a wide range of broadleaf crops, and in canola can reduce yields by up to 24 per cent.



CROP PROTECTION: NSW DPI pathologist Kurt Lindbeck says the new factsheet will give canola growers more control in managing sclerotinia stem rot.

PHOTO: Felicity Pritchard.

However, it is a difficult disease to control once the crop is sown, and prevention by use of foliar fungicides is the only effective post-emergent management option for growers.

Co-author and Pulse and Oilseed Pathologist, Kurt Lindbeck with the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries at Wagga Wagga said that the factsheet is timely, as fungicide applications need to be applied before the disease takes hold in spring.

“With the high price of canola, a preventative spray becomes more cost-effective in wet years,” he said.

Mr Lindbeck said that yield loss from sclerotinia stem rot is difficult to determine.

“In some years, the disease may be present, but not at high enough levels to affect yields. In other years, yield losses can be costly if the disease is not controlled,” he said.

He said the new guide will give growers a better understanding of the disease and more control over the decisions they make in managing canola crops in sclerotinia-prone areas.

Research undertaken by the Best Bet Canola and Canola Plus projects found yield responses to fungicides from 0.2 to 0.9 tonnes per hectare. In two other years of trials, there was no yield response, while in a fourth year, 2003, spraying was not cost-effective. However, at current canola prices, it would have been highly profitable.

To obtain a copy, please contact Kurt Lindbeck (02) 6938 1608 or Felicity Pritchard on 0427 600 228.

Media enquiries: Kurt Lindbeck (02) 6938 1608.
