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## **OILSEEDS NEWS**

### **CANOLA MONITORING ON THE CARDS**

Canola growers and advisors have the opportunity to participate in canola crop monitoring to fine-tune their management practices through the Canolacheck program

Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard, has 2006 Canolacheck cards available for dryland and irrigated canola growers and advisors. Canolacheck was developed by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.

Ms Pritchard said that monitoring is crucial to good crop management, particularly in emerging and young canola crops.

Growers who are involved in canola crop monitoring will receive reports after harvest, and paddocks will be benchmarked in order to determine which factors lead to the most profitable crops, she said.

“Canola yields and oil content have not been as good as they can be in some regions in recent years, and in many cases, the reasons for this are not fully understood,” said Ms Pritchard.

“By monitoring and recording the crop’s progress, and comparing the results with other crops in the region, individual growers can work out what factors are limiting their crop from reaching its potential,” she said.

Ms Pritchard stated that around 50 canola growers from each region were needed to be involved to gain a good grasp on the situation.

“The data will be collated by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or directly by agronomists.

The best performing crops will be scrutinised to see what sets them apart from the others, and these data will be used to help make recommendations to growers in the form of ‘Best Management Practices’ guides.”

Agronomists and farmers wishing to obtain Canolacheck cards should ring Felicity Pritchard on 0427 600 228, or Kirsty Giblin, New South Wales DPI at Finley on (03) 5883 1644.

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## **BCG OILSEED TRIALS FOR 2006**

The Birchip Cropping Group will focus their oilseed research on blackleg management and canola variety testing at their Rupanyup and Birchip sites.

The effectiveness of fungicides and varietal resistance against blackleg - the main fungal disease of canola – will be tested by the Birchip Cropping Group at its Rupanyup site in the Wimmera this year.

Research and Extension Manager of the BCG, Cherie Reilly, said that a highly resistant variety will be compared with a moderately resistant variety, with and without a fungicide seed dressing.

At the Birchip site, the group will trial a range of breeding lines and varieties from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, including juncea canola.

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