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## OILSEEDS NEWS - MEDIA RELEASES

### NEW FREE CANOLA GUIDES AVAILABLE IN VICTORIA

Victorian grain growers can now get their hands on a new cropping guide to better manage their canola crops.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation recently released a comprehensive 91 page book, "Canola best management practice guide for south-eastern Australia," available free of charge through most Department of Primary Industries (DPI) offices in Victoria.

The much-anticipated book – the first for south-eastern Australia since 1992 – contains information on a range of topics for growers to attain the best yields and quality of their crop.

The book contains sixteen chapters in all. There is up-to-date information on topics ranging from grain quality, crop establishment, nutrition, disease, weed management and pest management, through to grazing, fodder making, harvest and marketing.

The book was written by a team of agronomists and leading experts, and will be highly valued by the entire canola supply chain, as well as students and advisors.

Primary editor Don McCaffery of the NSW Department of Industry and Investment said, "it's the first major upgrade of an all-encompassing canola best practice guide since the early 1990s – so it was well overdue."

The biggest change in that time has been the introduction of herbicide tolerant varieties, which have been integrated into a weed management system that has allowed canola to be grown in areas where it could not previously be grown, he said.

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Mr McCaffery said less tillage, lime application on acidic soils and improvements in canola yield, oil content and disease resistance have also been major advances in that period.

The area of canola in south-eastern Australia (excludes WA) has increased almost seven-fold from only 95,000 hectares in 1992 to 626,000 ha this year.

Copies are available from reception at DPI offices at Rutherglen, Cobram, Echuca, Kerang, Swan Hill, Mildura, Epsom (Bendigo), Horsham, Hamilton, Ballarat and Geelong.

For further information, please contact Felicity Pritchard on 0427 600 228.

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