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OILSEEDS NEWS

NEW YIELD CALCULATOR



LESS GUESSING: The new canola yield calculator is simple and more accurate than older ones.

A new simple method of estimating potential canola yields has been developed by the CSIRO, which is far more accurate than previous models.

The calculation, developed by scientists John Kirkegaard and Mike Robertson, will allow growers to more accurately assess their fertiliser topdressing needs and work out gross margins.

Unlike older models, the new version takes into account the effects of sowing time and the amount of moisture stored in the subsoil that is available to the crop.

Dr Kirkegaard said that the potential yield of a canola crop was a function of the crop's water use efficiency and seasonal water supply. The water use efficiency drops by an average 10 pc for each month's delay in sowing from early April.

He said this new calculation was proven to be correct 70 pc of the time, compared with the older model, which was only 50 pc accurate.

“The model was developed for areas with evenly-distributed rainfall in southern New South Wales – it would require more thorough testing in areas with very different rainfall, but the key is that it can be used with simple rainfall data and accounts for stored water, residual water and late sowing,” he said.

Using this method, the target yield for growers should be 85 pc of the calculated potential yield.

For details of the potential yield calculation, see
<http://www.grdc.com.au/growers/as/pdfs/canola.pdf> .
