



FELICITY PRITCHARD
Oilseed Industry Development Officer –
Victorian and southern New South Wales
Irrigated Cropping Forum
C/- 110 Natimuk Rd Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228
Fax: (03) 5362 2187

Thursday, 15 June 2006
No. 11

OILSEEDS NEWS

CANOLA GROWERS ADVISED TO WAIT FOR RAIN BEFORE RE-SOWING



Hold off: Canola growers have been advised to wait for rain before re-sowing.

Canola crops have generally emerged well in Victoria, following what was an ideal start to the season in many parts. However, in some paddocks on heavy soils, canola seed is yet to emerge or germination has been patchy due to the ensuing dry conditions.

But growers have been advised to hold off for more rain before re-sowing the crop.

Southern regional manager for Dovuro, Denis Ballinger, said that each situation needs to be assessed on its own merit.

“You’ll never really know until the next good rain,” said Mr Ballinger.

Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard said that canola crops have an amazing ability to compensate for low plant densities.

“While 15 plants per square metre is the recommended minimum, research has shown that yields only start to drop off once the plants density falls below 10 plants per square metre,” she said.

“An earlier-emerged crop with low plant densities is generally preferable to a late sown crop with high plant densities.”

She said that she had heard reports of re-sown canola around Jerilderie and north of Albury this year.

Mr Ballinger: “you’re far better to run with what you’ve got. You don’t need a lot of plants per square metre”.

But he said that growers may have to opt for an early-maturing variety if re-sowing canola at this late stage.

Senior Agronomist with Landmark Horsham, Matthew Sparke, said that he had seen a few canola crops with slow and patchy emergence on heavy soil types, particularly when sown with urea using wide points, causing the soil to dry out more rapidly.

“Growers need to make an assessment within a fortnight after the next rain, otherwise we’ll be outside the planting window. Canola crops will need at least 20 points (five millimetres) of rain,” said Mr Sparke.

Mr Sparke said that paddocks with populations of herbicide resistant ryegrass and brome grass were a different situation, and that thin crops were not acceptable as they do not provide enough competition with the weeds. Re-sowing such paddocks could be a better option.
