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OILSEEDS NEWS

CANOLA GROWERS SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Canola growers are spoilt for choice with 16 new varieties added to the market this year.

Victorian DPI oilseed breeder, Wayne Burton, told advisors at the recent Grains Research Updates in Bendigo that six new conventional, two Clearfield, four triazine tolerant and four new specialty canola varieties are now available for growers.

But growers are being advised to only try new varieties on a smaller scale alongside the older proven varieties and to take a good look at the long-term data when selecting a new variety. In the medium to high rainfall areas, growers are warned to only use varieties with a good blackleg resistance.

And while some growers may feel overwhelmed by all the options, the Victorian DPI has drawn together data from 2003 to 2005 for most of the current canola varieties in the 2006 Victorian Winter Crop Summary.

“The oilseed industry is particularly excited about the new specialty varieties available, which could replace conventional canola in the longer term,” said Oilseed Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard.

“These specialty varieties have a better quality for frying, and are a healthier alternative to the saturated fats, like tallow and palm oil. And the best thing for grower is that some of the new varieties are outyielding conventional varieties, while attracting a very attractive premium price.”

For a copy of the Victorian Winter Crop Summary, contact DPI Horsham on (03) 5362 2111.
