

# Controlling volunteers in GM canola

**T**rials conducted by independent consultants at the Syngenta Learning Centre in Elmore, Victoria, should help to alleviate some concerns about the introduction of genetically-modified canola.

Roundup Ready canola is tolerant to glyphosate, thereby enabling glyphosate to be used as an in-crop weed control option. Some sectors of the industry have raised questions over what weed control options may be available to control any glyphosate-tolerant 'volunteer' plants that may emerge in or around sites where Roundup Ready crops have been grown.

Recent trials conducted at the Learning Centre, located next to the Elmore Field Days site, have confirmed that the herbicide, Sprayseed (paraquat plus diquat), provides 100 per cent control of Roundup Ready canola.

Sprayseed has been used in Australia for more than 30 years and has played an instrumental role in the development of minimum till cropping systems.

As a Group L herbicide, Sprayseed has a different mode of action from glyphosate-based herbicides, meaning it can control both glyphosate-tolerant canola varieties, as well as weeds displaying glyphosate resistance.

Syngenta State Sales Manager, Gavin

Jackson, said that with Roundup Ready canola varieties from both Pacific Seeds and Pioneer Seeds on show at the Learning Centre this year, glyphosate tolerant volunteer control has been a consistent theme of discussion among the hundreds of growers that have toured the site.

"Although Syngenta has no GM canola seed interests in Australia, we can demonstrate the role our crop protection products can play in new Roundup Ready production systems," Gavin said.

"There is no doubt that the Sprayseed trials have provided local growers with added confidence that they have an effective tool available should Roundup Ready canola volunteers emerge in their crop rotation."

By using the paraquat plus diquat for knockdown control prior to planting Roundup Ready varieties, growers can also be confident their additional reliance on glyphosate for in-crop weed control will not lead to a heightened risk of glyphosate resistance.

The Learning Centre at Elmore is a 4.5 hectare site incorporating a range of side-by-side trials comparing various seed treatments, fungicides and herbicides, as well as dozens of canola, barley and wheat varieties.

**For more information, contact the Syngenta Advice Line on 1800 067 108.** ■

# GM canola has delivered

**G**raham Barron of Parkes in NSW delivered his first GM canola crop in early November and is impressed by the results and with the supply chain processes.

"There was no problem delivering the grain into the silo site and everyone knew what to do with the GM canola. It's a very secure system right through the supply chain," Graham said.

While still too early for full and final results, he said, "The crop has held up well and I'm pleased with the yield despite the abnormally dry conditions. In comparison the Roundup Ready canola from NuSeed has performed better than the conventional canola I grew this year."

## The norm rather than the exception

Graham plans to plant more GM canola next year. "This will become the norm for us rather than the exception. Roundup Ready canola offers growers a choice of systems to use on the farm. The technology is long overdue in Australia and it represents another tool for growers to use in their toolkit," he said.

"Planting Roundup Ready canola makes good economic and sustainable sense. It helps us to be more competitive internationally and it lowers the use of other chemicals that have strong environmental impacts like atrazine. It's cleaner, greener technology."

This is the first crop of Roundup Ready canola since the moratoriums were lifted in NSW and Victoria early this year. Growers have been reporting excellent vigour and robust Roundup Ready canola plants throughout the 2008 season.

Hundreds of growers, agronomists and industry stakeholders attended field trials and field days across both states as the industry prepared growers and many other stakeholders for the first harvest delivery. ■



**Trials have shown herbicides with different modes of action successfully control Roundup Ready canola volunteers.**