

New RR canola lines in the pipeline

More than 40,000 hectares of Roundup Ready canola was planted throughout Victoria and New South Wales in 2009. That's around 600 paddocks across the two states – and represents more than a four-fold increase over the previous year's planted area.

It's growth that leaves many Western Australian growers casting their eyes across state borders with a fair degree of envy.

Attendees to recently held field days report they felt Roundup Ready could simplify their canola management. Other perceived benefits included:

- Suitability to no-till farming systems where the stubble can make trifluralin difficult to use and less effective;
- More timely sowing if a herbicide does not have to be applied before sowing;
- The potential to not have to use atrazine – not many farmers like using it;
- It can take out otherwise hard or expensive-to-control weeds;
- Although still important, herbicide timing was seen as not as critical as it is with some other herbicides; and,
- No residual herbicide use that could limit crop choice the following year.

For any canola grower, they are compelling benefits that would have to be weighed up against logistical challenges, such as how to manage seed at harvest as well as the distance to available receival sites.

Growers would also have to be well prepared with a good crop rotation program, good rotation of herbicide groups and other methods of weed control, and a good understanding of how to protect this valuable weed management tool.

Glyphosate has its strengths and weaknesses. For example, it is not strong on marshmallow and some other annual and perennial broadleaf weeds and it's generally known that glyphosate resistant annual ryegrass exists on fence lines and fire breaks on some farms.

Both issues would need to be carefully monitored if the moratorium on GM crops is lifted in WA and Roundup Ready canola is introduced.

Regardless of what happens in WA, Australian owned seed company, Nuseed, has pushed ahead and announced the release of its 'next generation' Roundup Ready canola varieties for 2010.

Nuseed's first Roundup Ready canola – GT61, was released for the 2008 growing season in Victoria and NSW.

It is an early/mid season variety with very high vigour and useful levels of blackleg resistance for its target rainfall zone of 350–550 mm.

Prior to its release, trial results had shown GT61 compared favourably with existing triazine tolerant (TT) canola varieties for both yield and oil content.

GT61 has been featured prominently in Nuseed's paddock evaluation program this year, giving many hundreds of WA growers a glimpse of the new technology.

Nuseed has plans to release the 'next generation' Roundup Ready varieties with a range of agronomic traits and maturities for 2010 pending trial results. Early indications are that the 'new generation' will yield between 20–30 per cent more than GT61. The 'next generation' include:

- **NGO195** (early maturity)
Maturity: Two days earlier than GT61.
Yield: +28 per cent vs GT61.
Oil: Slightly less than GT61.
Vigour: Very good.
Blackleg: Slightly better than GT61
- **NGO21** (early-mid maturity)
Maturity: Three days later than GT61.
Yield: +30 per cent vs GT61.
Oil: Similar to GT61.
Vigour: Very good.
Blackleg: Slightly less than GT61.
- **NGO157** (mid maturity)
Maturity: Eight days later than GT61.
Yield: +26 per cent vs GT61.
Oil: Similar to GT61.
Vigour: Very good.
Blackleg: Slightly better than GT61.
- **NGO28** (mid maturity)
Maturity: Eight days later than GT61.
Yield: +22 per cent vs GT61.
Oil: Similar to GT61.
Vigour: Very good.
Blackleg: Better than GT61.

Maturity, yield, oil and vigour information is based on nine Nuseed trials conducted over a two year period. Blackleg information based on two nurseries in 2008. ■



"Nuseed is progressing high yielding Roundup Ready canola lines in its pipeline," says Nuseed WA Sales and Production Agronomist, Glenn Lendon.