

High hopes for new hybrid canola



Tom Corkhill from Boorowa Pastoral Supplies shows the new hybrid triazine tolerant canola, Jardee HT, grown in a test strip south west of Boorowa.

Australian growers will be the first in the world to benefit from a canola breeding breakthrough, with the introduction of hybrid triazine tolerant canola seed next season.

The advanced variety, CB Jardee HT canola, combines triazine herbicide tolerance with the benefits of hybrid vigour for higher yields and quality.

The technology was developed by Australian-based canola specialists, Canola Breeders.

Jardee HT is a mid-season hybrid, suited to medium to high rainfall regions. It is one of three triazine tolerant hybrid varieties now available from Canola Breeders.

A limited quantity of Jardee HT canola was sown this season in New South Wales, including a test strip south west of Boorowa on Michael and Mark Carmody's farm 'Wharoa'.

They grow around 400 hectares of canola and wheat each year, with help from Tom Corkhill from Boorowa Pastoral Supplies.

According to Mr Corkhill, Jardee HT was sown in a comparison strip between Tawriffic and Summit at the start of June, and was quick to establish.

"The Jardee HT jumped away well after sowing and cabbaged up quickly to give a good ground cover," Mr Corkhill said.

"It also matured earlier and finished flowering earlier.

"Now we're just waiting to compare its yield and oil content against the other varieties."

Mr Corkhill said windrowing was planned for late November.

"We've been lucky with the season, with no major disease problems and only some minor frost damage in mid-October," he said.

Mr Corkhill said triazine tolerant varieties had regularly been used on the farm to help control weed issues, which were now becoming more manageable.

David Leah, Territory Manager for Canola Breeders, based in Wagga Wagga, said Jardee HT was included in all of the National Variety Trial (NVT) sites for canola in 2009.

Mr Leah said NVT data could give New South Wales growers valuable information about how new crops performed locally.

"Most of the 2009 trials were sown within the first two weeks of May, and despite the early cut out of the season and frost issues in some regions, the crops have generally been able to develop and show their potential," he said.

Results from the National Variety Trials will be available early in 2010.

"Jardee HT is an exciting opportunity for canola growers looking to maximise yields in medium to higher rainfall regions such as Cowra, Young, Wagga Wagga and Albury," he said.

"It is best sown by the third week of May with an optimum population of 20 to 35 plants per square metre."

Mr Leah said growers needed to remember to check the seed weight prior to planting to ensure a correct planting rate.

For more information about Jardee HT, visit www.canolabreeders.com.au.