

## High hopes for new hybrid canola



*Mark Schuster grew a test strip of hybrid triazine tolerant canola from Canola Breeders this year, which yielded around 2.5 t/ha.*

A breakthrough new canola that combines hybrid vigour with triazine herbicide tolerance has given a yield increase over traditional triazine tolerant canola on a Freeling farm this season.

A limited quantity of a Canola Breeders' hybrid triazine tolerant canola variety, CB Jardee HT, was grown last season and is now being harvested.

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.

Mark Schuster from Freeling grew a test strip from a 25 kg bag of seed to compare the new technology with an open pollinated triazine tolerant canola variety, CB Argyle.

Both were direct headed this month, with Jardee yielding around 2.5 t/ha. This was nearly 10% higher than his average yield for Argyle. The oil content of Jardee was 42% compared with 46% for the Argyle.

Mr Schuster said he preferred triazine tolerant varieties, so that by growing canola, he could work on controlling ryegrass on the farm.

"The Jardee produced bigger seeds than the Argyle, nice and black, and it was a lot taller too," he said.

"A lot of the tops of the pods didn't fill in the Argyle, I think because it matured a bit earlier and struggled for a time without rain."

Mr Schuster said he would continue to investigate the potential for hybrid triazine tolerant canola varieties next year.

His adviser, Chris Buttler from Roseworthy Rural, congratulated Canola Breeders on the staged introduction of hybrid triazine tolerant varieties.

"The company has done the right thing by distributing some seed last year to give growers a chance to evaluate the product," he said.

He said triazine tolerant varieties made up around 65% of all canola grown in South Australia and that the future of seed development lay in hybrid varieties.

However, he said growers would be looking for yield improvements in the order of 10% before committing to a change to hybrids.

"For South Australian growers, I think the varieties from Canola Breeders offer the best prospects," he said.

"The genetic selection is more in line with our environment than some of the varieties developed for Victorian growers."

In particular, he believes CB Mallee HT has potential for his region, as it is an early season variety.

The third hybrid triazine tolerant variety from Canola Breeders is CB Tumby HT.

Mr Buttler said the hybrid triazine tolerant varieties would be of interest to many South Australian canola growers if they continued to deliver excellent yield results.

Jardee was sown at a range of sites in the 2008 National Variety Trials. It topped the yield table at Bordertown, with 1.42 t/ha and yielded above average for all varieties at Yeelanna.

Results from the 2009 National Variety Trials will be available early in 2010.