

High hopes for new hybrid canola



Murray Witcombe is seeing first hand how Jardee HT performs on his Inverleigh farm.

Rohan Wardle, Research and Extension Agronomist for Southern Farming Systems (SFS), said Jardee HT would be of interest to many Victorian canola growers if it continued to deliver excellent yield results.

Jardee HT topped the National Variety Trials yield trial at Hamilton in 2008, with 3.53 t/ha.

Mr Wardle said Jardee HT was sown at Inverleigh on 25 May 2009 at 4 kg/ha with 100 kg/ha of MAP.

"For a late sown crop, I am pretty rapt with its performance," Mr Wardle said.

Visitors to the SFS field day at Inverleigh in October were able to see the crop in its prime, growing over a few hectares in the middle of the trial site. Mr Wardle also invited farmers to observe the crop at the SFS Dunkeld field day on 10 November.

"I'm expecting the Inverleigh crop to yield around 2 t/ha, which is better than I would generally expect for a late sown TT variety," he said.

Inverleigh district grower, Murray Witcombe, sowed half of one of his canola paddocks with Jardee HT and half with a conventional triazine tolerant variety this year, to assess the new variety.

"The vigour of Jardee was noticeably better, and it really grew out well after the first four weeks," Mr Witcombe said.

He regularly uses triazine tolerant varieties in paddocks with problem weeds, such as wild radish.

He said his canola had grown well through the season, but was in need of a good rainfall to finish pod-filling.

Mr Witcombe's adviser at Landmark in Bannockburn, Ashley Perkins, sees strong potential for Jardee HT among southern Victorian growers.

"The way growers are going, they're looking for hybrids to give them early seedling vigour and higher yields, but they still need TT varieties to control weed pressures," Mr Perkins said.

"By combining triazine tolerance with hybrid vigour, the end result is a variety that a lot of growers will be interested in."

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 Victoria, including display crops at Southern Farming Systems' Inverleigh and Dunkeld trial sites.