

Early canola set to impress



Newton Lines grew CB Telfer last year and found it to be an efficient, quick finishing canola crop.

Extremely high oil content is just a bonus when growing the new low rainfall canola variety, CB Telfer, available this season in South Australia.

The new triazine tolerant variety from Canola Breeders was bred specifically to grow in shorter seasons and lower rainfall districts, and has recorded impressive results in the field last year.

CB Telfer is the earliest maturing canola on the market today.

Gavin Schuster from Freeling grew the variety and was amazed at the 2 t/ha yield he achieved.

"It doesn't look all that wonderful when it's growing," Mr Schuster said.

"It's a very short crop and it doesn't branch out a lot, but it has got big seeds and very long pods, so it yielded a lot more than I expected."

He said the crop matured early and evenly and could be direct headed. It was the first of his crops to be harvested, in early November.

Not only was the yield pleasing, Mr Schuster now holds the all time record for the highest oil content at the Roseworthy silos, with his CB Telfer producing 50.5% oil.

This result pipped Wasleys district grower, Newton Lines, who delivered CB Telfer with 50.4% oil content to Roseworthy three days earlier.

He also achieved a solid 2 t/ha yield from his crop and believes CB Telfer has a lot going for it.

"It's the pick of the TT varieties I've seen," Mr Lines said.

"When we planted it, it came up nicely at first, but then other varieties seemed to continue establishing while it was sitting still.

"But all of a sudden it started growing and flowering. It left other crops for dust. It was amazing how quickly it flowered."

Mr Lines said it was a different mindset needed to direct head the canola, after windrowing every year since 1994, but the process was pretty quick and didn't cause much seed loss.

"CB Telfer was an efficient little crop," he said.

"It had a stem about the thickness of my little finger, and I'm used to a crop that produces a good yield having a stem more like the thickness of my thumb."

He said he would look to grow the crop again, for benefits such as quick finishing in years when the season cut out, and fast maturing in late starting seasons.

CB Telfer is a triazine tolerant, open pollinated canola variety ideal for low rainfall districts (250 – 400 mm).

Solid results in the 2008 National Variety Trials in South Australia included the top yield at Tooligie and above average yields at Spalding and Keith.

For optimal growth, nitrogen should be applied at sowing, with a top-up in the first six weeks of sowing.