



CLEARFIELD®
production system |

CLEARFIELD® hybrid gives highest yield on Wagga Wagga property

CANOLA with the CLEARFIELD® trait gave the highest yields compared to other herbicide tolerant canola crops on the property of Chris Gestier, north of Wagga Wagga in southern New South Wales.

Mr Gestier had CLEARFIELD®, Roundup Ready® and triazine tolerant canola side-by-side last season to see the differences in weed control and yield between the three systems.

The canola crops were all planted in the first week of May at a rate of 2.5 to 3.0 kilograms per hectare with a John Deere disc seeder.

Included in the canola areas were Pioneer® hybrid 46Y78 (CL), the Roundup Ready® variety GT61 and the triazine tolerant variety Thunder TT.

46Y78 (CL) was the highest yielding crop with an average of 1.1 tonnes per hectare. The Roundup Ready® crop (GT61) yielded 0.95 tonnes per hectare and the triazine tolerant canola (Thunder TT) was 0.92 tonnes per hectare.

Oil contents of the Roundup Ready® variety and CLEARFIELD® hybrid were more than two percent better than the triazine tolerant variety.

The hybrid vigour of the 46Y78 (CL) helped the crop in the early stages.

Mr Gestier said he could see a place for all three herbicide tolerant systems on the farm and it would depend on the weed burdens and herbicide rotations as to what is planted.

He said the CLEARFIELD® herbicide had worked very well on broadleaf weeds and there were also good results from the Roundup® herbicide.

The weed control from the triazine canola was not as effective.

“Triazines are going to be the first to go,” Mr Gestier said. “If anything falls down, it does.”

Canola is used mainly as a rotational tool on the property although last season it produced a higher gross margin than the wheat crops.

This was due, in part, to two 40 degree C days at the end of September, which occurred after the canola had finished and at a critical time for the wheat crop.

46Y78 (CL) was a bit later in maturity than the other canola options so performed well under the hot finish to the year.