

CLEARFIELD® canola outperforms competitors in large-scale Challenge

CLEARFIELD canola yielded better than triazine tolerant varieties in large scale paddock trials held during the 2009 season on five western Victorian farms.

Neil Vallance at Lake Bolac achieved the best gross margin advantage of \$188 per hectare. His 19 ha of Pioneer® 46Y78 produced 2.7 tonnes per hectare.

BASF introduced the CLEARFIELD Challenge following success with a similar program in Canada that demonstrated outstanding returns and herbicide performance compared with other herbicide tolerant systems.

Business development manager crop protection, Trevor Gillespie, said Canadian farmers had welcomed the opportunity to compare canola systems in their local environment. They liked the idea of testing CLEARFIELD canola on a larger scale rather than in trial strips.

"We're now giving Australian farmers the same opportunity to compare herbicides and gross margins. Importantly, the figures come from the farmers themselves, not BASF.

The local Challenge involved growers planting a minimum 15 ha of CLEARFIELD canola beside a triazine tolerant (TT) variety of similar maturity in the same paddock.

The other farmers participating in the 2009 Challenge were located at Inverleigh, Winchelsea, Cressy and Derrinalum. They also chose 46Y78 as their CLEARFIELD variety.

Despite the variations in rainfall in the hybrid yielded better than the comparison TT varieties in every case. Oil content was also higher in four out of the five trials.

Mr Gillespie said the higher yields and oil content coupled with Intervix's® effectiveness provided a winning combination for farmers wanting better returns without compromising on weed control.

Intervix performed well

"As well as getting farmer generated yield data, we also wanted to demonstrate the performance of Intervix under local conditions," Mr Gillespie said.

"It worked very well. All five farmers said it had provided excellent weed control with one application.



Neil Vallance, Lake Bolac, Vic grew Pioneer® hybrid 46Y78 (CL) in the CLEARFIELD Challenge in 2009.

"We know it's an excellent product and the Challenge has certainly confirmed that. Conditions in western Victoria were tough last year and rainfall varied widely across the trial farms, but Intervix® worked equally well in all circumstances.

"It's a robust herbicide with excellent foliar and in crop residual properties," Mr Gillespie said.

Intervix is distributed by Crop Care nationally through Agric entrées™.

Mr Gillespie said Crop Care had just completed training sessions across all AgriCentres to ensure agronomists had a full understanding of the CLEARFIELD system and were properly equipped to help farmers achieve the best weed control with Intervix.

He expected to see wider adoption of BASF's CLEARFIELD canola system in the coming season. "Seed sales and demand for Intervix are already at record levels following the early rains."

The CLEARFIELD Challenge will be run again in 2010.



CLEARFIELD®
production system |

