

# Geraldton Guardian Monday 26/10/2009

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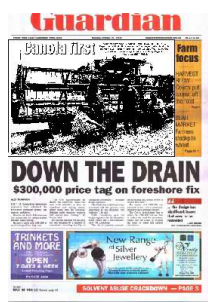
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# Canola first

WA's first harvest of GM canola started in Geraldton on Friday. Department of Agriculture research officer Wayne Parker, landholder Ian McRae with Perth Department of Agriculture officers Steve Cosh and Larry Prosser are pictured on site. **Story: Page 3**  
Picture: CLAIRE TYRRELL





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# First GM canola trial harvested

WA's first genetically modified canola was harvested near Geraldton on Friday. Eight hectares of canola were converted into about 11 tonnes of grain.

The harvest took place at the WA Department of Agriculture and Food research facility at Eradu, 40km east of Geraldton.

Research officer

Wayne Parker said the crop looked exceptional. The strong season had enabled it to reach its potential.

"It should reach 1.4 tonnes per hectare and average canola yields for this region are a bit above a tonne per hectare," he said.

Mr Parker said GM canola had many benefits and the crop had

potential to thrive in the region.

"Weed control is the biggest benefit of this technology and that allows an earlier sowing time," he said.

"Canola is general has good potential in this region, including GM canola."

Mr Parker said many local farmers who had visited the site were

interested in the technology and how it could fit in their system.

The Eradu site is one of 19 GM canola trial sites in WA and the only site in the Mid West.

The State Government allowed commercial trials of GM canola earlier this year and is expected to decide whether farmers can grow the crop early next year.



**GM grain:** Eradu farmer Ian McRae oversees the pouring of GM canola harvest into the truck during Friday's harvest. Picture: CLAIRE TYRRELL