



## Farm Weekly(WA)

Thursday 19/11/2009

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# Roundup Ready canolas offer rotation options

VERY few impending releases of new crops have captured the attention of growers in the same way that Roundup Ready canola has.

Spring field days across the state have been well supported and unveiled a new technology that is shaping up with great potential.

Bulyee farmer Wes Baker, one of the grower trial co-operators this season, says he's been in favour of the idea of Roundup Ready canola crops and was keen to take part in local trial evaluation.

Wes said he selected a 42ha paddock for the Roundup Ready trial that had the lowest population of wild radish on the farm.

He said initially, he wasn't confident of controlling wild radish post emergent with glyphosate, so he selected a site with a significant grass weed challenge.

The paddock had a long history of pasture/cereal rotation, and he also believed there was no resistance to grass herbicides in the paddock, giving him the option of going back with a grass selective if he needed to.

Nuseed variety GT61 was dry sown on May 8 and 20mm of rain followed on May 20 and 21. Wheat was grown in the paddock last year.

Wes said the Roundup Ready canola received no pre-emergent herbicide with two Roundup sprays post-emergent at the two and five leaf stage of the crop.

"We have Cobbler, a triazine tolerant (TT) canola in the next paddock. That's also performing well, although the GT61 was faster growing and more vigorous earlier on," he said.

"If the WA moratorium is lifted, I'm of the belief I'll still maintain TT canolas in the program.

"But I think Roundup Ready canola offers a

different chemical regime and gives us the option of rotating chemicals and not relying entirely on atrazine in the canola phase.

"Having now experienced growing Roundup Ready canola, and knowing that we can control the wild radish quite well in that system, I'd be more confident of going into a paddock that does have more radish in it. But I would still approach that situation with caution.

"We would probably plant Roundup Ready canola in those paddocks that have some weed burden in them that needs to be cleaned up.

"I wouldn't put it in a paddock that has had an absolute weed blow out. I would preferably use other techniques such as brown manuring or hay prior to Roundup Ready canola, because I don't see it as a silver bullet.

"There's no residual activity like there is with atrazine. So if we had a subsequent germination of grass weeds **outside the application window**, especially important in a paddock with weeds resistant to the fops and dims, you could run into a problem.

"In other words, I'm looking forward to it and I'd be cautious where I put it. I wouldn't put it in a very high weed burden paddock.

"Roundup Ready canola would fit into those areas where the weed burden perhaps isn't so high and where it fits into the chemical rotation, so we're not relying too much on the glyphosate herbicide.

"In paddocks that have had Roundup Ready canola, the following year if it went into wheat, we'd look at other weed knockdown options that include paraquat and diquat.

"What is pleasing is that we're getting a bigger **range of herbicide options available to us**," Mr Baker said.



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□ Given the new and improved Roundup Ready canola varieties in the future, Wes Baker sees plenty of upside with the potential for big increases in yield and oil content in the future.