

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Hundreds attend Roundup Ready® canola accreditation

**Friday 7 March 2008**

Over 300 farmers and agronomists have attended the first series of Roundup Ready canola accreditation courses held across rural Victoria and New South Wales.

Hosted by Monsanto Australia in conjunction with Nufarm and seed companies Pioneer, Pacific Seeds and Nuseed, the meetings were designed to provide growers with the agronomic and commercial information they require if they choose to grow Roundup Ready canola.

Commercial Canola Lead Tony May said there has been overwhelmingly positive interest in the benefits Roundup Ready canola will bring to Australian farming systems.

“Despite GM technology opponents continuing to raise age-old mistruths - all of which have been answered years ago – we’ve found that growers are most interested in the practical side of these new varieties” said May.

“They want to know how to get the most from the technology, what herbicide rotations they should use, understand what the commercial model looks like and, ultimately, how they can participate in the program.”

Once accredited, growers are eligible to purchase seed if there are varieties available that suit their specific farming requirements.

“Like any new product launch, there’s a limited quantity of seed available in this, the first season,” said May. “Between one and two per cent of the total canola area will be grown to Roundup Ready varieties which makes the attendance we’ve had at the accreditation courses even more remarkable, particularly in New South Wales where the commercial opportunity is not clear yet.

“Farmers want the opportunity to make up their own minds and we hope the accreditation courses are giving them the information to do just that.”

Nufarm’s Manager of Research and Development, Andrew Wells, said he was extremely encouraged by the meetings.

“Not only has there been excellent attendance but there’s been a lot of interest in the extensive herbicide trial work Nufarm has done in pulling together the package to best suit Roundup Ready canola. This follows on from the positive feedback from growers and advisors at the recent GRDC updates” he said.

“We’re really looking forward to the season beginning.”

Further accreditation courses will be held in upcoming weeks.

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**Editor’s note :** In 2003 Roundup Ready canola was found to be as safe as conventional canola and approved for commercial release by the Federal Regulator. <http://www.ogtr.gov.au/ir/dir020.htm>

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