

# Roundup Ready® canola on roadsides and its control

Associate Professor Christopher Preston | School of Agriculture, Food and Wine | University of Adelaide



## Occurrence of volunteer canola outside cropped fields

Canola seed occasionally spills during transport. This results in volunteer canola populations occurring along transport routes including roads and railways. Surveys of non-crop volunteer canola populations in Australia show they are more common on curves, bridges and near grain receival points; areas where spills are more likely to occur.

Most of the volunteer canola on roadsides occurs close to the edge of the road or in other bare areas, such as around culverts and posts. Studies have shown that canola is a poor competitor with perennial grasses and other perennial vegetation and rarely establishes amongst such vegetation.

Volunteer canola may complete its lifecycle on roadsides and set seed. However, studies of roadside canola populations suggest that many populations are ephemeral on roadsides and are re-infested by new spills each year.

## Introduction of Roundup Ready canola

Roundup Ready® canola was grown commercially for the first time in 2008 in NSW and Victoria. Roundup Ready canola is the same in all respects to conventional canola except that it will not be controlled by glyphosate. It is not expected that Roundup Ready canola will be any more weedy on roadsides than conventional canola or have different germination patterns. From 2009, it is expected that small numbers of Roundup Ready canola may occur on roadsides from canola spills.

It is very unlikely that Roundup Ready canola on roadsides would affect the status of crops in fields. There is much less canola growing on roadsides than there is in cropped fields. In addition, roadside canola often germinates on summer and early autumn rains and flowers before canola in fields do.

## Control of Roundup Ready canola on roadsides

Roundup Ready canola can be controlled by all the techniques available for control of conventional canola, except glyphosate application. Alternative herbicides, herbicide mixtures with glyphosate where the other herbicide controls brassica weeds, mowing and slashing will all be effective in its control. Care should be taken with herbicide choice to ensure the herbicides will control brassica weeds and are suitable for the location. Monitoring needs to be a part of any weed management strategy, including on roadsides. Control activities should be monitored to ensure any emerging issues are managed. Survivors of herbicide treatment should be controlled by some other method: physical, mechanical or a different herbicide.

**For more information contact Monsanto Australia on 1800 069 569.**



Seed spilling from trains (and trucks) is the major source of volunteer canola.



A narrow strip of verge sprayed with Roundup to prevent damage to the bitumen, saves slashing costs and improve drainage.



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# Controlling Roundup Ready<sup>®</sup> canola on roadsides

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