



Canola Variety on-farm Demonstrations

Kate McCormick, John Stuchbery and Assoc.

Why was it conducted:

Choices galore! Thirty-one canola varieties will be marketed in Victoria in 2003. Many of these varieties have had limited testing in the Wimmera-Mallee prior to release. This makes assessing the relative merits of canola varieties rather difficult. On-farm testing aimed to provide a large-scale comparison of emerging and current varieties.

How it was conducted:

On-farm demonstration trials were conducted by Wimmera Farming Systems on grey clay soils at Minyip and Lubeck. The sites were partially replicated using the nearest neighbour layout with a control variety grown in every third plot. Plots were 8-10m wide and 100 m long.

Results:

Yield

Both sites were drought effected with the Lubeck site not harvested. The Minyip site received 148 mm of growing season rainfall and was harvestable. There was some variation in soil type and plots on lighter textured soil yielded higher (1.0 t/ha) than those on heavier textured soil (0.5 t/ha). Despite this site variation, the nearest neighbour layout enabled comparison of varieties relative to the control variety. Yield of test varieties was classified as higher than (+), similar to (=) or lower than (-) the control variety Surpass 501TT (Table 1).

Table 1. Yield of canola varieties relative to Surpass 501TT.

Variety	Type	Yield relative to Surpass 501TT
Grace	TT	=
Pinnacle	TT	=
Beacon	TT	=
Surpass 603CL	IT	+
Hyola 60	Hybrid	+
AG-Castle	Conventional	=
Rainbow	Conventional	=
AV- Sapphire	Conventional	=
Rivette	Conventional	=
Lantern	Conventional	=

Oil

Oil content was less variable than yield and soil type did not have a significant effect. Oil content was low ranging from 32.5 to 38.3 %. There was little varietal difference except that Rainbow showed its tendency for low oil content and Beacon had the highest oil content for the TT types.

Commercial Practice

The following comments may assist in selecting canola varieties for the Wimmera.

Variety choice should not be made solely on 2002 performance. Refer to DPI variety summaries for further information.

Hybrid Varieties

Hyola 60 is a mid-season hybrid variety that appeared to cope well with the dry season. This variety is a good choice for the Wimmera. On the more difficult soils of the northern Wimmera look out for *Hyola 42*.

TT Varieties

Beacon is a widely adapted Pinnacle selection set to outclass Pinnacle in the Wimmera and Southern Mallee. *Beacon* is earlier maturing and has a yield advantage over Pinnacle. *Surpass 501TT* may be a good option where there is a greater risk of Blackleg. *Grace* is still the preferred Pinnacle replacement for high rainfall areas.

IT Varieties

Surpass 603CL was tested this year. It yielded well relative to *Surpass501TT* and had relatively high oil content. This is the preferred IT variety for the Wimmera.

Conventional Varieties

The conventional varieties in this trial all performed similarly. Of the new varieties, *AV-Sapphire* appears more suited to the Wimmera than *AG-Castle* which is later maturing and better suited to higher rainfall regions. *Lantern* has a similar fit to *AV-Sapphire*. *Rivette* is an early-mid maturing variety similar to *AG-Outback* but with improved oil content. The new varieties *Pioneer 45C05* and *Pioneer 45C04* were not tested in the WFS demonstrations but appear to have good yield potential and good blackleg resistance but only moderate oil content.

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