CROP VARIETIES

Very little yield data is available for many of the crop species from the 2006 season. Furthermore, for some crop species, notably chickpeas, seed production was severely disrupted by the drought and the release of some of the newer varieties has been delayed by a year.

Wheat

- A new strain of stripe rust has emerged that will substantially change the stripe rust ratings of a number of varieties.
- Yitpi growers should move towards varieties with resistance to stem rust to avoid risk; at present the best options appear to be Correll or Derrimut.

Barley

- The new malting barley variety Flagship has been fully accredited by the industry but restricted quantities of seed are available.
- The barley variety Buloke requires a further season of commercial scale trials prior to receiving full accreditation but more seed is available than for Flagship.
- For both Flagship and Buloke, malting segregation will be extremely limited in 2007.

Chickpeas

- Seed production of the new "Genesis" varieties with greatly improved resistance to ascochyta blight has been disrupted, and significant quantities of seed will not be available until 2008.
- The first of the new Genesis varieties are slightly lower in yield (particularly in the Mallee) and quality than their ascochyta susceptible predecessors.

Field Peas

- Kaspa, Parafield, Sturt and Bundi will be the best options for Victorian growers.

Lentils

- The release of Nipper to growers was been delayed until 2008. The green lentil Boomer will also be released in 2008 and offers an opportunity for development of a green lentil industry in Victoria.

Canola

- Due to the large number of varieties available, and the lack of yield data, growers are advised to trial small areas of the new varieties, sown alongside existing proven varieties.
- Emphasis should be given to appropriateness of the maturity type for the local area, the blackleg rating and the weeds that need to be controlled in the individual paddocks (to determine choice between conventional, triazine and Clearfield types).