

1.3.1 Canola Variety Trial Inverleigh

Location : Inverleigh Vic

Funding : Thanks to the members and sponsors of Southern Farming Systems for funding the trial.

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Rainfall (mm) April – November : 223 mm. There was very little to no frost damage in the trial. The season was exceptionally dry.

Summary of Findings :

The tough growing conditions impacted on the trial with yields below average. Despite the very dry season (Decile 1) grain quality was very good, with high test weights and oil percentage. It is important to view this data along with information from other sites and from years with more "normal" rainfall conditions.

Background to the trial :

The aim of the trial is to evaluate a number of commercially available and near release canola varieties that could be suitable growing in south west Victoria. The data generated is to help farmers make a varietal selection, however caution needs to be exercised in viewing the data in isolation, particularly given the very dry year (Decile 1). This data needs to be viewed along with data from previous years.

Trial Inputs :

The trial was sown on the 15th May 2006 into a dry seedbed. Sowing fertilizer of 100 kg/ha MAP was used along with 90 kg/ha Urea on 23rd August 2006.

Trial Design :

This was a replicated trial (4 reps) with a plot length of 12 metres. Plot width was 1.45 metres with the plots being grown on 2 metre wide raised beds. Yield was calculated on a plot width of 1.45 metres, not taking into account the furrow width. Hence caution needs to be exercised when viewing the yield data.

Trial Results :

Table 1 gives the grain yield and quality for the varieties in test.

Entry	Variety	Type	Grain Yield T/ha	Yield % site mean	Oil %	Screen %	TW kg/hl
16	Hyola 75	Conventional	2.442	110	43.45	1.000	67.90
7	Marlin TT	TT	2.432	110	44.05	1.358	69.20
4	Summit	TT	2.430	110	41.95	0.900	68.80

17	Ruby	Conventional	2.340	106	42.15	0.930	69.40
9	46C76	Clearfield	2.317	105	42.60	1.130	69.80
6	Bravo	TT	2.287	103	42.10	0.898	70.00
13	44Y06	Conventional	2.277	103	41.95	1.558	68.00
15	45Y77	Clearfield	2.223	100	41.90	1.088	68.60
3	Flinders	TT	2.223	100	41.20	1.010	67.90
11	Rocket	Clearfield	2.215	100	42.30	0.790	68.20
12	46C78	Clearfield	2.172	98	42.20	1.090	68.20
8	ATR Signal	TT	2.170	98	39.70	1.288	68.10
5	Thunder	TT	2.140	97	41.55	1.518	69.00
18	RT125	Conventional	2.135	96	44.40	1.127	68.40
14	MC492	Conventional	2.088	94	44.25	1.238	67.40
1	ATR Barra	TT	2.060	93	41.65	1.020	68.60
2	Tornado	TT	2.033	92	42.15	1.040	69.40
10	Warrior CI	Clearfield	1.907	86	41.95	1.228	67.70
		Average	2.216	100	42.31	1.123	68.59
		LSD 5%	0.43		0.41	0.27	0.72
		CV	23.40		2.72	23.42	1.25

The CV of 23.4 for yield is high, reflecting the variable establishment and difficult growing conditions. Given this there was no significant difference in yield between the top 17 highest yielding varieties. Unfortunately given the uneven number of conventional, TT and Clearfield lines in test, it is not possible to analyse whether there is any difference between the groups.

Hyola 75 continues to yield well and follows on from high yields in the 2005 trials at Inverleigh. It appears to be a very consistent variety for yield, having performed well across a number of sites in 2005.

Oil % was quite high across all varieties, which is surprising given the tough growing conditions. Normally TT lines give lower oil than Conventional lines, however in this trial there were some TT lines that produced high oil percentages.

Grain Test Weights were very high given the tough growing conditions. This indicates that there was no frost damage in the trial.

Trial Observations :

The trial was sown under very dry conditions. Plant establishment was very patchy and secondary germination took place following follow up rainfall. Plant growth was good with limited disease affecting the trial. Given the very dry conditions, grain yield was excellent.