



MEDIA RELEASE

15 April 2009

WA GM canola growers announced

Mt Barker, Western Australia 15 April 2009: Monsanto supports the announcement today by the Hon. Terry Redman MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry of the approved list of commercial trial participants, who will be planting small areas of Roundup Ready® canola for commercial production in WA this year.

Tony May, Monsanto Canola Business Lead said, "We look forward to working with growers, the government and our industry partners to ensure the first commercial plantings of Roundup Ready canola in WA are as successful as they were in Victoria and New South Wales."

"Growers from the eastern states were overwhelmingly satisfied with the Roundup Ready canola technology and said they will grow it again. We've had over 1300 growers and agronomists attend accreditations in Victoria and NSW and we anticipate an even greater uptake in 2009."

"It's great that WA growers will have the opportunity to see the technology and make the choice for themselves of what they want to grow," he said.

"We anticipate the first plantings will occur in the last two weeks of April, and seed is being delivered to each farm this week to ensure all farmers are ready to plant. It's an exciting time for WA growers, the grains industry and we look forward to the opportunities for WA growers," he said.

Each grower is committed to meeting the requirements of the exemption throughout the season and to planting up to 70 hectares each. A total of 1000 hectares will be grown this season in WA.

Mark Adams, Mt Barker, Roundup Ready canola grower is looking forward to trialling the technology and the opportunities it offers WA growers.

"In our industry it is important to remain competitive in the global market so that our farm remains profitable and sustainable," he said.

"Most of our canola is exported so it is imperative that we keep up with the rest of the world. I am excited to have the opportunity to demonstrate that this is the way forward for us and for agriculture in Western Australia," he said.

All growers attended a Monsanto Roundup Ready Accreditation course and will be accredited under the CBH on-farm quality assurance program *Better Farm IQ*. Growers have also had to complete Licencing documentation (Technology User Agreement and Licence and Stewardship Agreement) and complete the DAFWA exemption application form and seek approval from the Director General before they can plant.

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About Monsanto Company

Monsanto Company is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. Monsanto remains focused on enabling both small-holder and large-scale farmers to produce more from their land while conserving more of our world's natural resources such as water and energy. To learn more about our business and our commitments, please visit: <http://www.monsanto.com/>.