

# New Cultivars to Benefit Australian Canola Production

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In 1997, Australian canola growers will have eight new cultivars to choose from when making their decision as to which cultivar to grow. Although seed supplies will generally be limited, the new cultivars offer significant advantages over those most popular in 1996 viz. Oscar, Dunkeld, Rainbow, Narendra, Hyola 42 and Siren. They will also contribute to the continued expansion of the area sown to canola in Australia. What may surprise breeders in other countries is that four of the new varieties are resistant to triazine herbicides. A major constraint to expansion in Australia is cruciferous weeds, and the development of transgenic herbicide resistant cultivars has only just begun. Consequently, triazine resistant cultivars still have a place.

The features of these new cultivars are as follows: - **Monty** - developed by NSW Agriculture, Monty is an early maturity line, usually similar to Narendra but earlier than Hyola 42. Monty is higher yielding than Narendra, but yields less than Hyola 42. Oil content for Monty is similar

and in other areas where Dunkeld has had agronomic problems eg. too tall, slow to mature and more susceptible to shattering.

**Drum** - developed by NSW Agriculture, Drum is an early maturity, triazine herbicide resistant line, in Western Australia at least 12 days earlier than Siren. Maturity is similar to Karoo. In Western Australia, Drum has a significant yield advantage over Siren. Drum has moderate resistance to blackleg, similar to Siren and Karoo. This will limit Drum to areas where the risk of blackleg is low eg. the drier areas of Western Australia where cruciferous weeds can be a major problem.

**Clancy** - developed by NSW Agriculture, Clancy is a mid maturity, triazine herbicide resistant line, similar in maturity to Oscar but 3-5 days earlier than Siren. Clancy has a significant yield advantage (> 25 %) over Siren in all states. Blackleg resistance is much better than Siren, similar to Oscar. Clancy is a replacement for Siren, particularly in the eastern states where its mid maturity is more suited.