

Introducing: Bruce Murray, Canadian Speaker on GM canola adoption in Canada

Bruce is the Provincial Weed Specialist for Manitoba Agriculture – he has become well known to Manitoba farmers of as a straight shooter and a very capable expert in weed control on the Canadian Prairies. His relaxed and friendly interactive style with farmers make him a very effective communicator. His expertise in genetics and plant breeding and his past experience working in the crop protection industry make him well qualified to talk about all aspects of GM canola production.

Bruce earned three degrees at the University of Manitoba. He has a B.Sc. in Agriculture (Plant Science), a M.Sc. (Plant Breeding) and a PhD (Weed Ecology). He has worked in the agricultural industry for over 15 years. He has held positions with both industry and government, as a field researcher, a manager and an extensionist.

Prior to working with the Manitoba state department of Agriculture Bruce worked as a researcher for some of the large pesticide companies and was heavily involved with the canola breeding program at Dow AgriSciences. These experiences make him well versed on anything to do with GMO or conventional canola. Bruce grew up in a farming community where his father was a contract aerial applicator for over 30 years.

Bruce is also one of “the” experts in Canada on weed resistance and could really shed light on the problems Canadians had and how GM crops have helped with these problems.

Bruce and I both spoke at the large two day Agronomist Conference in Winnipeg in December – there was 50 presentations and over 200 agronomists in attendance. I was sent the ratings of the speakers afterwards and Bruce and I were rated as the top two presenters at the conference. I know that sounds like bragging but it probably gives you a better insight as to what to expect.