

\$68/ha better return with Liberty

In farmers interests, unpaid as I am in this action, I again refute the continuous misinformation about GM canola. Let's be clear and complete with the agronomic facts. There is likely a 30% greater grain yield gain available right now with GM canola over TT canola! There is a 15% grain yield penalty with TT canola over conventional canola and there is a 15% yield advantage available over conventional canola with the GM hybrids. There is also no TT hybrid canola ready to go – it is many years away yet.

When you add this 30% extra grain yield with GM canola over TT canola then you can see why Canadian farmers have embraced GM canola with both hands. GM technology has been the fastest adopted agricultural technology ever – even exceeding no-tillage. Independent WA trials by Mike Lamond confirm this order of yield difference with GM lines.

The “new” knockdown herbicide of Basta – used with GM Liberty canola is in-waiting for us and it will give 97% ryegrass control at 4 L/ha. While the herbicide is expensive at \$18/L and at 4 L/ha it would cost \$72/ha – it is still less than the herbicide costs of a TT canola crop.

A triazine herbicide package could be \$83/ha, being \$11 [from 1 L/ha of glyphosate plus ammonium sulphate plus oil plus Ester in April], \$8 [from glyphosate just before sowing], \$28 [from 4 L/ha of Atrazine], \$26 [from 300 mL/ha of Aramo plus wetter and ammonium sulphate] and \$10 for an extra 2 applications. The TT package does not give reliable weed control in dry soil, is overusing triazines and puts pressure on the “dime”. Don't be fooled by fanatics who regularly only give half of the story and say that TT herbicides only cost \$28/ha.

Liberty seed cost, at 2 kg/ha and \$16/kg, is \$32/ha with no-till cropping. Therefore with a comparison of a 1 t/ha TT crop now yielding 1.3 t/ha of Liberty canola at \$333/t, this is an extra \$100 (300 kg/ha more yield at \$333/t) subtract seed cost of \$32 is an advantage of \$68/ha. This assumes no earlier time of sowing advantage nor the good ryegrass control ensured and with GM canola.

GM technology will give a much needed rest to trifluralin, atrazine, glyphosate and the grass selective herbicides. Farmers, you are being hood-winked by fanatics with vested interests in the grain handling area of agriculture. Perhaps before you pay your membership to any farmer group you should be sure they are on your side. Let them know your view. A group of a few dozen (if that) should not hold you all to ransom! Don't be bullied – Canadian farmers are no fools, let's not become “flat earth” people.

Be aware also that all the beer you drink, the cheese and bread that you eat and the insulin that some in your family use are virtually all GM and have been for many years. This is clever and safe technology and the whole world is increasingly realising this.