

Seamless switch and great results with new canola herbicide

KATANNING farmer Ian Knapp is looking forward to ratcheting-up the use of a new rotation tool against grasses in his cropping operation after a seamless introduction and good results early this season.

Ian applied the new selective pre-emergent herbicide for use in canola – Devrinol-C – with some of his canola varieties this year.

Devrinol-C, from UPL, offers another chemical mode of action to assist growers' weed management programs as well as help extend the life of existing herbicides.

The Group K pre-emergent herbicide, which contains the new active ingredient napropamide, controls annual ryegrass, barnyard grass, crow'sfoot grass, innocent weed, liverseed grass, pigweed, potato weed, redshank, sowthistle, stink grass, summer grass and winter grass.

Ian runs a 50:50 cropping and sheep operation on the family's 'Craigmore' property, in Western Australia's Great Southern region growing wheat, barley, canola, lupins and oats. It allows him to follow a flexible cropping rotation that can include canola or lupins before two to three years of cereal production and a return to pasture if required.

He said, like many growers, he encountered problems controlling grasses in some areas and so decided to apply Devrinol-C with some Roundup Ready and triazine-tolerant canola varieties this season.

Longer residual

"It's a new chemical mode of action for the canola phase and so puts another tool in the toolbox," Ian said. "The longer residual control it provides will be a big benefit."

The pre-emergent herbicide does not control germinated weeds, but it is compatible with a range of complimentary herbicides including trifluralin, atrazine, propyzamide, metazachlor, glyphosate and paraquat, allowing flexibility in weed management programs.

Ian applied the Devrinol-C in three different mixes in various crops, including with glyphosate, paraquat, as well as atrazine and glyphosate.

In an ideal situation, a knockdown herbicide is also applied upfront, but this season the first application with most crops was a pre-emergent herbicide mix of glyphosate and propyzamide, with paraquat used where weed germinations had occurred.

Less than ideal mixing prior to application can cause problems with products, but Ian said the application of Devrinol-C through their 1386 Rogator sprayer went very smoothly.

"We use a chemical batch mixer and we make sure it is in suspension before it goes into the machine," Ian said.

"If you rush it, you can have a problem. Some guys get white line fever. I'd rather take an extra five minutes mixing than have to clean the boomspray out.

"You can have a problem with atrazine if you go too fast."

Ian first mixed the Devrinol-C in water and then followed the mixing order with other products before applying it through the Rogator with a water rate of 80 litres per hectare.

The pre-emergent herbicide has a label rate of 1.75–2.25 kilograms per hectare, with the higher rate advised to be used to target high grass populations.



Ian Knapp, Katanning, and his agronomy consultant, Frank Boetel, Primary Agronomy, inspect the excellent early weed control provided by the new selective pre-emergent herbicide in canola.

"We used normal agitation and put it through 100 mesh filters that we checked after each load and it was all good. We never found a skerrick in the filters."

UPL has also reinforced to growers that it is important to add Devrinol-C into a pre-mixing vessel slowly with good agitation, and while it is compatible with a wide range of commonly used products, tank mixtures should be tested prior to use.

Ian said the early results with the new herbicide were excellent.

"The difference in control is quite remarkable between where the Devrinol-C was applied and propyzamide was applied."

Ian's agronomy consultant Frank Boetel, of Primary Agronomy based in Katanning, has observed the excellent control being offered by Devrinol-C at 'Craigmore'.

Another chemistry option

Frank said the pre-emergent herbicide provided growers with another Group K chemistry option, good compatibility and crop safety, and a broad range of weed control and suppression.

Trials across Australia over the past four years have consistently highlighted the crop safety, longer residual control and yield benefits of using Devrinol-C in canola compared with existing standards.

In over 16 trials in WA, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales, Devrinol-C showed more than 90 per cent control of ryegrass 14–20 weeks after application, whereas propyzamide showed 77.5 per cent control. Trials in NSW have also shown yield advantages of up to 450 kg per hectare where the herbicide has been applied compared with propyzamide.

Further work is now being undertaken with Devrinol-C to assess its effectiveness against wireweed, toadrush, lesser loosestrife, shepherds purse, silvergrass, common chickweed, capeweed, waterbutton, wild oats and clover. The work also includes a focus on extending the time between application and incorporation, better understanding of plant back to rotational crops and assessing new formulations.

For further information contact your local sales agent or www.upl-ltd.com/au ■