



MEDIA RELEASE – 12th January, 2010

SEPWA variety trial results available on web

Grain growers can now access yield and quality information on the best performing varieties in the Esperance Port Zone this harvest.

The South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA) has harvested their wheat, barley and canola variety trials and the results are now available on the website.

The SEPWA variety trials play a very important role in variety selection as they are specific to the region as trials are conducted on various farmers' properties from Condingup in the east, north to Salmon Gums, west to Varley and Ravensthorpe and in between.

This year SEPWA had five canola sites, 14 wheat sites and 11 barley sites throughout the Esperance Port Zone (EPZ) which were representative of the different soil types and rainfall environments.

SEPWA Trials Coordinator, Bill Sharp said that all trials have now been harvested with most of the quality and yield data completed and available on the SEPWA website.

He said overall yield results varied with average wheat yields ranging from 1.8 to 4.0 t/ha, barley was 1.6 to 4.3 t/ha while canola yields ranged from 0.95 to 2.5 t/ha.

“Results have been interesting during 2009 especially with the inclusion of some new wheat, barley and canola varieties which allow farmers to see these varieties grown in large scale trials”, said Mr Sharp.

All varieties in the SEPWA barley variety trials are analysed for yield and quality parameters including colour, protein, screenings, hectolitre weight and moisture.

For the wheat trials, detailed receival data such as protein, screenings, hectolitre weight, gluten and starch plus falling numbers have been collected and delivery grades determined.

Interflour, a Platinum sponsor of SEPWA, will also test selected varieties to identify those which will be suitable for milling to flour and will present some results at the SEPWA Harvest Debrief and AGM.

The canola variety trials are assessed for yield and quality information including moisture, protein and oil content.



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Mr Sharp said the trial results greatly assist growers to make a more informed decision as to what varieties are best to grow in terms of yield and quality, especially given the trials are locally based.

In making a decision on what variety to grow, Mr Sharp said that growers should look at varieties in terms of yield and quality over a couple of years as this will remove the seasonal variability associated with trials.

The trial results information is only available to SEPWA members initially, through the password protected members' only site at www.sepwa.org.au, the results will be made available to others following the SEPWA Harvest Debrief and AGM.

All SEPWA members should have their member login and password details, should you have any problems contact Gemma Walker on 9083 1134 or email eo@sepwa.org.au.

The full results from the SEPWA Variety Trials will be presented by Sarah Ellis (DAFWA) and Andrea Hills (DAFWA) at the SEPWA Harvest Debrief and AGM on Friday 5th March in Esperance and on Thursday 4th March at Ravensthorpe.

For further information about SEPWA trials, contact SEPWA Trials Coordinator Bill Sharp on 0428 711375 or to register to attend the SEPWA Harvest Debrief and AGM, contact Gemma Walker on 9083 1134.

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