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## **Herbicide Resistant Canola Variety Added to OGTR's GMO Register**

Gene Technology Regulator (GTR), Dr Raj Bhula, has approved the addition of a herbicide-tolerant variety of canola to the GMO Register. As part of the CropLife StewardshipFirst platform, CropLife Australia has developed a stewardship document titled 'Best-practice Use of Crops on the GMO Register'.

The GMO Register is a list of genetically modified (GM) products that are no longer supported by a commercial licence. The GTR may place specific innovations on the GMO Register if they are confident of their safety and after public consultation. Specifically, a GMO may be entered on the GMO Register when:

- it has been previously assessed and licensed by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, and
- the GTR is satisfied that listed dealings can be safely undertaken by anyone without the need for oversight by the original licence holder.

The newly included canola variety, MON-00073-7, is an early Roundup Ready crop that was originally licensed for Australian commercial cultivation in 2003. This glyphosate-tolerant canola variety represents an older germplasm that forgoes the last 25 years of innovation.

The initial assessment of MON-00073-7 for inclusion on the GMO Register was undertaken in February 2022. However, CropLife Australia sought to delay a final decision until the market had time to assess any potential impact and make necessary provisions. Part of this strategy included engagement with the OGTR that emphasised the need for stewardship in this space and the subsequent development of stewardship guidelines. With the final decision delayed until August 2024, this approach has provided industry with the time needed to appropriately manage this development.

While providing clear and practical guidance, the stewardship document emphasises the importance of purchasing seed from trusted suppliers. The inclusion of GM crops on the GMO Register means it is possible for inexperienced producers to sell GM seed. Therefore, it is critical that farmers understand the risks associated with these products and the benefits from purchasing from trusted suppliers and products that are newer and supported by a commercial licence. Moreover, the document also notes that modern crop varieties contain more than 20 years of plant-breeding innovation. Farmers growing older varieties, such as those that may be included on the GMO Register, potentially forgo these advances.

[Find the MON-00073-7 GMO Register online.](#)

[Find CropLife's Best-practice use of crops on the GMO Register Online.](#)



# HeadsUp

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