

## AGT Varieties Sunmax<sup>PBR</sup> and Coolah<sup>PBR</sup>

By Kerry Gleeson

### Sunmax - A great early wheat option.

The release of Sunmax, a slower maturing variety developed by Australian Grain Technology (AGT), is especially relevant as it adds significantly to the choice of varieties available for early sowing.

Ongoing research continues to highlight the potential big yield gains and more profitable production available from early versus mid or late sowing. However, to minimise risk, especially from late winter-spring frosting, early sowing requires slower maturing varieties.

Slower maturing varieties such as Sunmax generally head around the same time as many of the quicker-maturing varieties sown later in their respective sowing windows.

Advantages of early sowing with appropriate varieties includes commonly deeper and more developed root systems, higher potential yield for many situations and the ability to cope more effectively with wet winter conditions, if they are well-established before semi waterlogging occurs.

Senior AGT wheat breeder Meiqin Lu reports that Sunmax is a long season spring variety slower in maturity than Sunbri and Sunzell and slightly quicker than Sunbrook. Sunmax also has Australian Prime Hard (APH) classification for the northern Zone.

Other important attributes of Sunmax include an excellent level of stripe rust resistance based on both major and multiple minor APR genes. Stem rust resistance is also good although leaf rust resistance will need careful monitoring as its rating is lower.

Sunmax has good tolerance and resistance to crown rot and root lesion nematodes (*P. thornei*). For growers looking for a good early sowing wheat seed will be available for the 2017 season.



### Coolah - Shows good yield and disease resistance

Coolah will also be available for sowing in 2017. It is well adapted to the northern region and has a solid disease package of resistance to each of the rusts, tolerance to root lesion nematodes and intermediate resistance to yellow leaf spot.

Coolah has the pedigree of EGA Gregory and is similar to EGA Gregory in most traits, but in NVT trials has shown a 2% to 9% yield advantage depending on the zone.

Compared to EGA Gregory and LPB Flanker, Coolah is slightly shorter in stature and has improved straw strength, with greater standability resulting in improved harvesting speeds and fewer harvesting losses.

Coolah, like EGA Gregory is suited to end of April into May Plantings.

#### References:

<http://www.agtbreeding.com.au/assets/docs/general/coolah-northern-zone.pdf>

<http://www.agtbreeding.com.au/assets/docs/general/sunmax-northern-zone.pdf>

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