

## Well-adapted Durum breeds set for release

**DEMAND** for Durum wheat remains strong, with new varieties all set to enter the market.

Following on from Tjilkuri, which was released in 2010, the WID803 variety will be released this year and WID802 in 2012.

University of Adelaide School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, Durum program leader Jason Able said crown rot tolerance had been improved in all the three varieties.

"Because of their wide adaptation, they are less affected when we have those harder finishes so crown rot doesn't take hold," he said.

"Instead of being very susceptible, they are considered susceptible, which is a significant improvement over all the varieties of Durum that are currently released."

Tjilkuri is a slightly later-maturing variety that is considered a substantially better replacement for farmers growing Tamaroi, which was released in 1998, with higher yield and better quality attributes.

WID803 is a high-yielding variety that consistently out-yields Hyperno in trial sites across South Australia and is suitable for the majority of SA's Durum-growing areas.

"Of significant importance is that WID803 has superior semolina and pasta attributes when compared to currently grown varieties such as Hyperno," Dr Able said.

"It delivers high sprouting tolerance but can have a higher-than-normal level of screenings.

"WID802 is a high-yielding variety due for release in 2012. As with WID803, WID802 is a well-adapted variety suitable for the majority of Durum-growing areas and as with virtually all Durum varieties, shows very good levels of rust resistance."

In addition to the 13 trial sites that the Durum breeding program runs annually, there are several Durum National Variety Trial sites across SA.

If yield results of the NVT trials show improvement above what has already been released, more varieties could be released in 2013. "The program's got so many lines of potential that, over the next five years, there's no reason why we can't release a variety each year, based on what's coming through the pipeline," Dr Able said.

Apart from serving a domestic market, particularly that of local pasta company San Remo which part-funds the Australian Durum Wheat Improvement Program in conjunction with the GRDC, Australian Durum also has a strong export market, with Italy a prime supporter.

Dr Able said Italy considers Australian Durum to be the best in the world and believes a premium market for Durum will continue to grow from season to season.

"For those farmers new to growing Durum or to those who are returning after an absence, consider sowing Durum for maximising farm profitability," he said.

— MALCOLM SUTTON