New wheat focusing on protein

A NEW high-protein wheat and a dual-purpose wheat will be available to growers next year following the release of the Suntime and Sunlamb varieties.

The Australian Grain Technologies team (AGT) released the new varieties at the University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute field day at Narrabri last week.

AGT durum breeder Tom Kapcejevs said both varieties were good replacements for those already available to growers.

Suntime is an Australian Prime Hard (APH) wheat for late April planting suited for NSW and Queensland.

“It has good rust resistance and moderate tolerance to root lesion nematodes,” Mr Kapcejevs said.

“It’s a higher yielding variety and has better stripe rust resistance than Sunzell, which is the variety we’re comparing it to.”

“It’s a long season variety but slightly quicker than Sunzell, which is only an AH (Australian Hard) wheat in northern NSW and Queensland.”

Mr Kapcejevs said Suntime could allow growers to maximise available moisture early in the season.

“It can be planted before Lancer and Gregory in a similar planting window to Sunzell, but the big benefit is the APH classification.”

He said growers had been asking for a high-yielding, early planting APH wheat since the release of Sunzell in 2006.

“Sunzell has been widely received but what was holding it back was the AH classification.

“This is a big step up from Sunzell and growers are keen to grow it next season.”

Sunlamb, a dual-purpose variety, is an ABW Standard White (ASW) wheat suitable for livestock, grain and hay making.

It has similar dry matter to Naparoo for hay production and similar grain recovery to Wedgetail wheat, while also having better rust resistance than Wedgetail wheat.

The long-season spring wheat is suitable for plant in early to mid-April, Mr Kapcejevs said.

“It’s a big step up from Naparoo, which is a feed wheat, and it’s higher yielding than Wedgetail,” he said.

– RUTH CASKEY