

BASF simplifies sunflower production

Introducing a new way to grow sunflowers – combining superior seed genetics with weed control.

BY LAUNCHING ITS CLEARFIELD production system in time for the 2009 season, BASF has provided a new way of growing sunflower in South Africa. Combining selected sunflower hybrids with the broad-spectrum herbicide Euro-Lightning, this system makes it easy for farmers to match superior seed genetics with custom-designed weed control.

Clearfield is a technology with a global market acceptance, which allows sunflower growers to optimise valuable resources like labour, fuel and time, while maximising yield potential with clean sunflower lands.

BASF has secured commercial and development agreements with Pannar, Syngenta and Agricol, enabling a farmer to identify the product by the Clearfield symbol on their preferred hybrids.

The first Clearfield hybrids in South Africa will be PAN 7063CL, ADAGIOCL and AGSUN 5181CL. Clearfield differs from other weed-control systems in that the herbicide is specifically designed for maximum control of the weeds limiting sunflower production. It controls the first post-emergent weeds, 17 broad-leaf and four grass species, as well as another eight important weed species including large cocklebur, khaki weed and pigweed. Weed control can be executed in a single application. – *Orrock Robertsen* |fw



The Clearfield herbicide Euro-Lightning is specifically designed for maximum single-application control of the weed species most frequently affecting sunflower production. The thorn apple (*Datura stramonium*) plant on the left was uncontrolled, whereas the plant on the right was sprayed with herbicide.

COURTESY OF PANNAR