

Bacterial resistance will further boost the productivity and reliability of mungbeans

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Mungbean (*Vigna radiata* L. Wilczek var. *radiata*) is a short duration tropical pulse crop introduced to Australia in the late 1960s and grown predominantly for export but also for low-volume niche domestic markets such as sprouting. Mungbean is a valuable disease break and weed control options for our cereal based farming systems and highly competitive with cotton and coarse grains on both a gross margin and water efficiency basis.

The development of best management practice along with advances in grain yield, harvestability, and grain quality in later varieties such as Crystal and Jade-AU have positioned mungbean growers to take advantage of strong international demand for pulses and established mungbean as the main summer rotation for northern Australia.

The seed-borne bacterial diseases halo blight (*Pseudomonas savastanoi* pv. *phaseolicola*) and tan spot (*Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*) are significant production risks for mungbean and have been a key focus of research since inception of the National Mungbean Improvement Program in 2003. Bacterial resistance in current varieties Celera II-AU (small-seeded mungbean) and Onyx-AU (black gram) will soon be supported with the deployment of resistance in large-seeded varieties which are Australia's key market.