

## Roundup Ready maize in SA

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Monsanto recently launched the first Roundup Ready (RR) maize in SA.

SA is the first country in the world outside the US where the genetically modified RR maize has been launched, and maize is the third RR crop to be released in SA. Monsanto's RR soya and RR cotton were launched in August 2001. RR maize was approved for use in SA in June 2003.

"All indications are that 2.5m-3m hectares will be planted to RR maize in the near future," says Kobus Lindeque, managing director of Monsanto for Africa south of the Sahara.

This season, more than 400,000ha have been planted to all types of genetically modified crops in SA.

The RR cropping system allows the application of the herbicide after the crop has emerged to control the most difficult weed species without affecting the crop. It is recognised as the most superior weed management system for soya bean, cotton and maize farmers.

The gene in the RR maize is exactly the same as that in RR soya, RR cotton and RR wheat. RR wheat is expected to be produced in SA in 6-7 years' time.

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