

AGT- Opener Imi[®]



- Australia's first ever chickpea variety with Imi tolerance~
- Excellent plant-back option for managing imidazolinone residues
- In-crop use of imidazolinone herbicide still pending APVMA approval
- Competitive yield performance versus commonly grown varieties
- Excellent resistance and tolerance to RLN (*P. thornei*)
- Desi type with seed smaller than PBA HatTrick[Ⓛ]
- Off-label use of imidazolinone herbicides in-crop is prohibited by law

Breeder's comments

In autumn 2026 we assumed responsibility for chickpea breeding from Chickpea Breeding Australia (a collaboration between GRDC and NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), ensuring continued investment in the improvement of this important pulse crop for Australian growers.

Headquartered at our Northern Crop Breeding Centre based in Narrabri, our immediate priority is to maintain momentum through this transition and accelerate the conversion of elite breeding germplasm into improved commercial varieties that deliver value to growers.

Selected from the advanced germplasm pool acquired from Chickpea Breeding Australia, AGT-Opener Imi[®] is the first chickpea variety to be released under the AGT banner and the first ever chickpea variety with tolerance to imidazolinone herbicide.

Imidazolinone tolerance has been deployed in most major field crop types and 'Imi' herbicide use on-farm is commonplace. This chemistry is an excellent weed management tool, however, herbicide soil residues have the potential to impact future rotational choices. AGT-Opener Imi[®] allows growers to confidently plant into ground where Imi herbicides have recently been applied, and is a major feature of the variety. Registration for in-crop use of Nufarm Intercept[®] (Group 2 Imazamox and Imazapyr) has been submitted and is pending APVMA approval. If successful, Nufarm Intercept[®] will be the first and only registered imidazolinone herbicide for use with this trait, and AGT-Opener Imi[®] becomes even more useful on-farm.

AGT-Opener Imi[®] offers competitive yields, around 2% lower than CBA Captain[®], and a disease resistance package which is similar to other varieties for Ascochyta, a little weaker for Phytophthora, but with excellent resistance and tolerance to Pratylenchus thornei.

AGT-Opener Imi[®] is a desi type chickpea that produces seed that is smaller than PBA HatTrick[®].

In recognition of the strong legacy established by Chickpea Breeding Australia, we have chosen to continue the tradition of naming new chickpea varieties after cricketer terms, with AGT-Opener Imi[®] being the first release in this new chapter.

AGT-Opener Imi[®]

Table 1. Specifications

Background

Tested as	CBA2061
Released	2026
EPR rate	\$6.00/tonne + GST

Disease

Ascochyta Blight resistance*	S
Phytophthora Root Rot resistance*	VS
Pratylenchus Thornei resistance*	MRMS
Pratylenchus Thornei tolerance*	TMT
Pratylenchus Neglectus resistance*	MR (P)
Pratylenchus Neglectus tolerance*	MTMI

Plant Characteristics

Maturity speed^	Quick-mid
Novel herbicide tolerance^	Imidazolinone herbicide~

Grain Quality

Type	Desi
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Legend

R	Resistant	MI	Moderately Intolerant	,	Mixed phenotype
MR	Moderately Resistant	I	Intolerant	#	May be more susceptible to alternate pathotypes
MS	Moderately Susceptible	VI	Very Intolerant	*	NVT disease ratings 2026 (nvt.grdc.com.au/nvt-disease-ratings)
S	Susceptible	(P)	Provisional rating	^	AGT ratings/data interpretation
VS	Very Susceptible	NA	Not Available	~	Refer to Herbicide tolerance section
T	Tolerant	/	Pathotype differences		
MT	Moderatly Tolerant	-	Range		

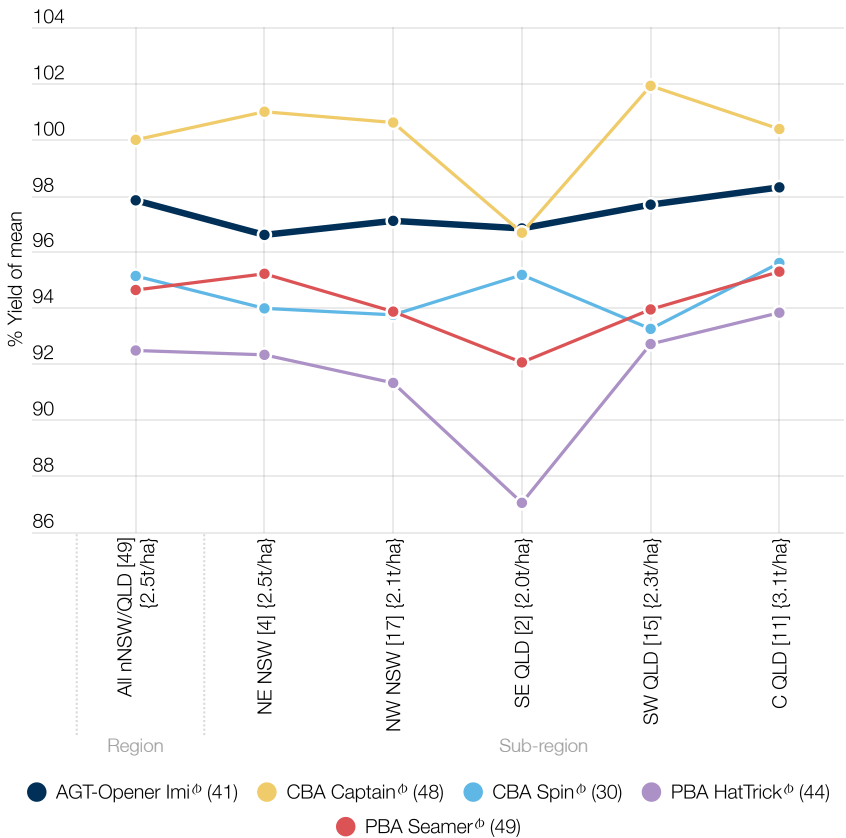
Herbicide tolerance

Provided for information only, does not constitute an offer of supply or sale for off-label uses as there is no current APVMA approved use in imi tolerant chickpeas at the date of this publication. An application has been made by Nufarm to the APVMA for approval to use Nufarm Intercept® Herbicide on imi tolerant chickpeas and an update will be provided when APVMA make their decision (expected ahead of the 2027 planting season). Please note that some minor phytotoxicity has been observed during imidazolinone tolerance testing.

Grain yield

AGT-Opener Imi[®] has produced stable and competitive yields across the northern region, yielding 2% lower over-all than popular variety CBA Captain[®], while out-yielding CBA Spin[®], PBA HatTrick[®] and PBA Seamer[®] (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Grain yield of AGT-Opener Imi[®] versus comparators across northern NSW/QLD - NVT trials



Source: Best linear unbiased predictions from NVT long term MET analysis, chickpea trial series 2021-2025



[] : Total number of trials per region

() : Number of trials that each variety was present in across the dataset

{ } : Region mean

Variety comparisons

AGT-Opener Imi[®] produces seed that is smaller than PBA HatTrick[®], with a yellow-brown seed coat and angular seed shape, consistent with commonly grown varieties.

While holding good resistance and tolerance to RLN (P. thornei), AGT-Opener Imi[®] has a VS rating to Phytophthora Root Rot, lower than some comparators (Table 2).

Table 2. Variety comparisons

		AGT-Opener Imi [®]	CBA Captain [®]	CBA Spin [®]	PBA HatTrick [®]
Disease	Ascochyta Blight resistance*	S	S	S	S
	Phytophthora Root Rot resistance*	VS	S (P)	MSS (P)	S
	Pratylenchus Thornei resistance*	MRMS	MS	MRMS	MRMS
	Pratylenchus Thornei tolerance*	TMT	MT	MT (P)	MTMI
	Pratylenchus Neglectus resistance*	MR (P)	MR (P)	MRMS (P)	MRMS
	Pratylenchus Neglectus tolerance*	MTMI	MT	MI	MT
Plant Characteristics	Maturity speed [^]	Quick-mid	Quick-mid	Mid-slow	Mid
	Novel herbicide tolerance [^]	Imidazolinone herbicide ⁻	None (conventional tolerance)	None (conventional tolerance)	None (conventional tolerance)
Grain Quality	Type	Desi	Desi	Desi	Desi



Seed Availability

Please contact an AGT Affiliate or your local retailer for seed. Consult the AGT website for AGT Affiliate contact details (www.agtbreeding.com.au/affiliates). AGT varieties can be traded between growers upon the completion of a License Agreement as part of AGT's Seed Sharing TM initiative (www.agtbreeding.com.au/seedsharing)

PBR and EPR

Varieties denoted by the [®] symbol are protected by Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) and all production (except seed saved for planting) is liable to an End Point Royalty (EPR), which funds future plant breeding. Growers of PBR protected varieties will be subject to a Grower License Agreement that acknowledges that an EPR must be paid on all production other than seed saved for planting.

Contact

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The information contained in this brochure is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Growers should be aware of the need to regularly consult with their advisors on local conditions and currency of information. Wherever possible, independent NVT data has been used in this publication (nvt.grdc.com.au). In the absence of NVT data, AGT data has been provided.