

CANOLA PRODUCTION

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What is Canola??

- Canola is a small seeded oil crop (similar in seed size to alfalfa)
- Contains 40-42% oil
- Both spring or winter annual types exist but in Wisconsin we would plant spring annuals
- Short Season Crop between planting (late April) and harvest (late July – Early August)
- Most canola is grown in North Dakota or NW Minnesota

Canola Planting Considerations

- Plant into a clean, firm seedbed
- Seed @ 6 lbs. per acre
- Seeding depth of @ 0.5"
- Canola is typically seeded in 6-7" rows with a brilliant type seeder or press wheel seeder
- Plant Canola in late April
- Canola is susceptible to heat and drought stress during flowering so early planting will be better than late planting.
- Seedlings are fairly frost tolerant

Canola Fertility UW-Recs

(at optimum soil test levels)

- Nitrogen 80 lbs/A
 - Phosphorous 45 lbs/A
 - Potassium 80 lbs/A
 - Sulfur 10-25 lbs/A
- There have been sulfur deficiencies in variety trials when no sulfur was applied



Canola Weed Control

- Conventional Herbicides Labeled
Treflan – Pre plant incorp
Select, Poast, & Assure II as post-emergence grass control
- Sensitive to drift or tank contamination from common broadleaf herbicides
- Herbicide Resistance in Canola
Glyphosate Resistance
Clearfield Resistance
Liberty Resistance
- Remember to rotate herbicide families as volunteer canola will also be resistant

Canola Pest Management

- Insects
Flea Beetles
Grasshoppers
- Diseases
Sclerotinia wilt (white mold)
Black Leg
- No problems reported in years of UW-Variety Trial Research

Canola Harvest

- **REQUIRES SWATHING**
Canola pods ripen on the plant from bottom to top and need swathing to get uniform seed drying and moistures
- Swath when 20-30% of the seeds on the main stem have turned from green to brown
- Swathing too late will cause significant seed loss from shattering
- Thick stems and bulky plants create big swaths
- While in swaths, seed & pods rewet when humid or rainfall to help limit shatter loss in the swath

Special Harvest & Storage Considerations

- Make proper combine settings for threshing small & light seeds or too much seed will go out the back of the combine, but too much foreign matter in the bin with the seed will cause problems for oil pressing
- To Prevent Post harvest loss
Need very tight truck boxes
Storage bins need special floors
- Seed can sweat for up to 6 weeks after harvest, heating and spoilage can occur even at 9-10% moisture.

University of Wisconsin Canola Variety Trial Yields

	Arlington	Chippewa Falls	Spooner
	Lbs/A	Lbs/A	Lbs/A
2006	2324	-----	1738
2005	1835	1121	1700
2004	2453	2719	1844
2003	2242	1670	2340
Averages	2213	1836	1905

