

Ontario Canola Report, 2008

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Almost a Perfect Year

- All crops had high yields (42 bu/acre provincial average for spring canola)
- Very little moisture or heat stress
- Sclerotinia was a problem
- Cabbage Seedpod Weevil wasn't
- Quality was Good
- Acreage increased from 35,000 acres in 2007 to 55,000 acres in 2008, mainly because of price.

Recent Trends

| Year | Acres Harvested | Yield (bu/acre) |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2005 | 44,000 | 25.0 |
| 2006 | 15,000 | 41.7 |
| 2007 | 35,000 | 35.0 |
| 2008 | 55,000 | 42.0 |

After major yield and quality problems in the dry summer of 2005, spring canola has started to rebound.

In high-producing fields, yields were very good.

2008 Ontario Spring Canola High Yield Challenge Winners

1st - 77.1 bu/acre - Invigor 5030 Shawn & Mike Schill

2nd - 76.9 bu/acre - Invigor 5440 Mike Schill

3rd - 76.7 bu/acre - Invigor 5440 Brian Wiley

4th - 71.6 bu/acre - Invigor 5440 Harry Biermans

5th - 69.4 bu/acre - Invigor 5440 Don Curry

Winter Canola Challenge Winner

1st- 76.0 bu/acre - Kronos Robert Andruchow

Variety Trials Conducted by the Ontario Oil and Protein Seed Crop Committee

- Top yields were with LL varieties.
 - A new LL entry (PHS06-944) was the top performer.
 - 5440 was second but its high % brown seed in Ontario is a potential problem as it usually means high free fatty acids in the oil.
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Winter Canola Trials 07/08

- Only 2 of 5 trials survived the winter.
 - Visby variety from DR (formerly Agri-Progress) has promise but may have green seed problem.
 - Pioneer's PR46W14 also shows promise.
 - Both strains have better winter hardiness (80% vs. 67%) and higher seed and oil yield than check, Kronos
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Research Highlights

- In 2007 (a dry year) there was a consistent response to foliar Boron on spring canola but not in 2008.
 - Little response in 2008 to Insecticides or Fungicides in Ontario trials.
 - The Meaford location of our Best Management Spring Trials topped out at 84 bu/acre.
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Breeding Highlights

- Present and past graduate students work on identifying chemicals (often specific glucosinolates) related to resistance to various pests.
 - An example is the identification two glucosinolates in spring canola related to Canola Seedpod Weevil resistance or avoidance.
 - . Easy to use in haploid breeding systems.
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Tolerant germplasm available from Dr. Kott.

Breeding Research Highlights

- Another example is the identification of chemical markers for root maggot resistance. The source of resistance is from *Sinapis alba*. The work is most advanced in rutabaga but being expanded to canola.
 - Similar new work starting on resistance to flea beetle.
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Summary

- Yields and prices in 2008 were good.
 - Having two crushers operating in Ontario instead of one helped give farmers more confidence to grow canola.
 - Bayer Crop Science varieties dominate in spring canola.
 - No activity in Ontario in contracting for premium oil markets.
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