

Flax Production in Southwestern North Dakota

Flax is a crop of relatively minor importance in southwestern North Dakota when compared to the cereal grains. However, flax acreage statewide as well as in southwest North Dakota has increased in the past several years. Production in the fourteen county Missouri Slope area for the five year period 1980-84, as reported by Carver in Agricultural Statistics No. 55, June, 1986, was 160,000 bushels on 16,800 seeded acres, for an average yield of 9.5 bushels per acre. Statewide production was 4,409,600 bushels on 386,000 seeded acres for an average of 11.4 bushels per acre.

In both 1986 and 1987 flax acreage increased, over the 5-year average. There were 400,000 acres of flax planted statewide in 1987 with a harvested yields of 16.5 bushels per acre. In the 14 county Missouri Slope region 58,000 acres of flax planted in 1987 averaged 15.5 bushels per acre.

Clark, Flor, Culbert 79, and MacGregor are recommended varieties for southwestern North Dakota.

Table 22. 1988 Dickinson Flax Variety Trial

Variety	Bushesl /A	Test Wt. Lbs.
Flor	13.9	52.5
Culbert 79	11.8	53.0
Clark	11.5	53.5
MacGregor	10.0	52.5
Seeding Rate: 40 lbs./A		
Seeding Date: May 12 Harvest Date: Sept 1		
LSD 5% = 5.7 Bu/A CV = 30.0 %		
Fertilizer: 50 lbs./A 18-46-0, drill		