

## **Growing Lentil in North Dakota, A 1636**

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Lentil (*Lens culinaris* Medik.) is produced on more than 450,000 acres (2012) throughout the U.S. Domestic consumption of lentil is primarily in soups, salads, casseroles and stews. Lentils provide a good source of protein (20 to 35 percent), but are limited in the amino acids methionine and cystine. Consumption of lentils with small grains provides a balanced diet. Lentil sometimes is used as a green manure crop. Most lentil grown in the U.S. is exported. The main production areas are the Palouse region of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, northwestern and northeastern Montana, and western North Dakota.

Lentil production in North Dakota primarily has been confined to the western part of the state because disease is an issue under higher moisture conditions. Lentil is an excellent rotational crop. Production of lentil or other legumes in a diverse cropping system may improve soil health, and provides for an opportunity to control problem weeds such as downy brome, Japanese brome and other grassy annual weeds, as well as the cereal root rots and leaf spotting diseases. Acreage in North Dakota was the highest (255,000) in 2010.

*Growing Lentil in North Dakota, A 1636* is an overview of lentil production for specialty crop producers, including weed control, diseases, harvesting and references. The following individuals contributed to the publication, Kevin McPhee, Dave Franzen, Rich Zollinger, Brian Jenks, Janet Knodel, Sam Markell, Michael Wunsch, Julie Pasche, John Nowatzki, Kenneth Hellevang, Frayne Olson, and NDSU Extension Service and Agriculture Experiment Station staff.

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