

1) SUMMARY OF THE 2010 CANOLA PRODUCTION CENTRE

The 2010 CPC was located on the Richard Magnusson farm north of Roseau, MN, approximately 2 miles east of the University of Minnesota's Magnusson Research Farm. After a wetter than normal spring, the 40-acre site experienced good growing conditions and produced better-than-expected yields.

The Minnesota Canola Council continues to rely on its Canola Production Centre (CPC) for valuable agronomic information. The CPC is a research centre devoted to conducting farm-scale trials. The information garnered from these trials is intended to offer producers scientific, easily adaptable information to help them produce canola more efficiently and profitably. The distinctive feature of Minnesota's CPC lies in its farm-scale (or large-plot) trials which gives producers more of a 'real world' demonstration, using conventional equipment. The research gleaned from the CPC thus far has yielded valuable information regarding variety selection, fungicide and insecticide practices, seeding rates and time of swathing, just to name a few.

The 2010 growing season exhibited considerable variation in weather conditions. Warmer-than-average spring temperatures allowed most growers to finish planting canola by the 10th of May. However, persistently wet conditions in late May and early June subjected young canola plants to considerable moisture stress, as Roseau received 6.85 inches of rain from May 15 through June 15. The overall growing season was wetter than average, as the observed total rainfall of 19.5 inches from April through September was 3.5 inches higher than the 30-year average in Roseau, MN. The growing season was also warmer than average, with the average temperature from April through August being 2°F warmer than the 30-year average. Although subjected to early-season moisture stress, favorable mid- to late-season growing conditions resulted in a better-than-expected canola crop.

The Minnesota Canola Production Centre was planted into a 40 acre field between May 16 and 18. The experiments planted in 2010 included the large and small plot public variety trials, a nitrogen fertilizer timing and rates trial, a desiccation, Pod Ceal, and straight harvesting trial, as well as a Monsanto Performance Ready Canola trial, a Mycogen MEGA trial, and a Wilbur-Ellis micronutrient trial. Overall canola yields were average to above average, although certain areas of most studies were drowned out. Disease pressure was minimal.

2) CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH OF 2010 CANOLA PRODUCTION CENTRE

The large-plot and small plot variety trials within the 2010 Canola Production Centre provided valuable information to canola growers in northern MN. Results from this year's Nitrogen Topdressing Trial failed to show a yield benefit to slow release nitrogen fertilizer (ESN) applications when compared to urea applications and also failed to show a benefit to topdress nitrogen applications rather than spring-applied applications. This information should help farmers in making nitrogen fertilizer decisions. The straight harvesting and desiccants trial revealed several alternative harvesting methods that deserve further investigation.

3) LIST OF PUBLICATIONS/ABSTRACTS

Porter, P., and R. Proulx. 2011. Variety trial results (to be released in January 2011). Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. University of Minnesota.

(I'm not aware of any other publications that are likely to come from this, other than the 2010 Canola Production Centre report that I will be handing out at next week's meeting in Roseau.)