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Optimum Camelina Seeding Dates #20100214

The intent of this project is to demonstrate the most suitable spring and fall seeding dates for camelina. Eight seeding dates were selected (4 seeding dates in the fall, and 4 seeding dates in the spring) and seeded on small scale plots (18' X 14') near Swift Current. Large scale plots at Aneroid were not seeded due to a change in the producers seeding intentions and acres too wet to seed. Fall seeding dates were used to show over winter survival of emerged plants (earlier seeding dates) and effects of dormant seeding (later seeding dates). Spring seeding dates were used to show the spring frost tolerance and competitiveness of early emerged crops (earlier seeding dates).

We noted better yields from plots seeded in the spring compared to those seeded the previous fall. The best yield came from the plots seeded earliest in spring and was significantly higher than the remaining treatments. Since we experienced numerous frosts this spring, this would suggest that the young seedling is quite resistant to frost. We observed plants surviving a hard frost even after leaves turned purple with shades of white. We also noted the significantly lowest yield from the plots seeded early in fall, indicating poor over winter survival of plants that had emerged in fall before freeze up. This was also evident by the low plant populations taken the following spring from these fall seeded plots. Yields from our field scale plots at Aneroid in the past have shown similar trends with better spring seeded yields coming from the earlier seeding dates and the poorest yield coming from the early fall seeding date.



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