

Wheatland Conservation Area Inc.

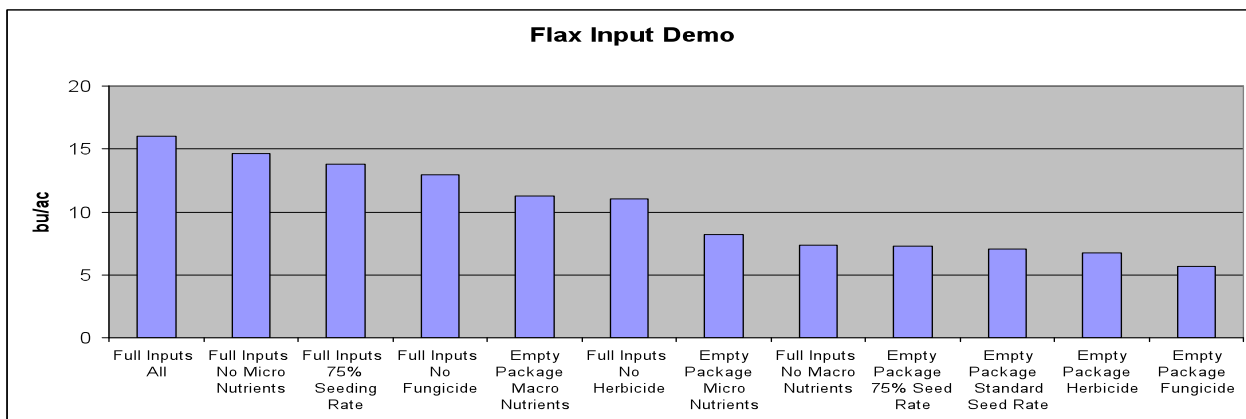
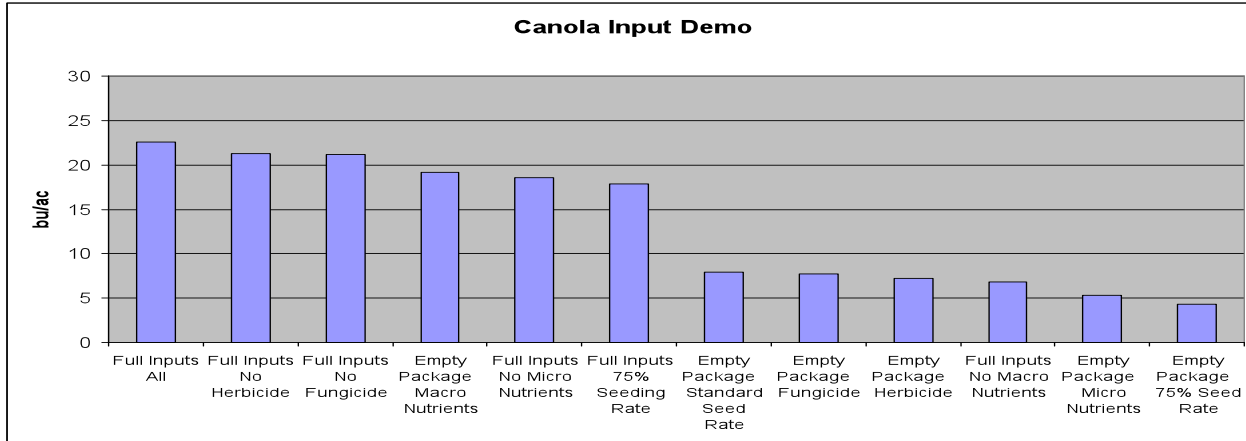
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Input Study for Canola and Flax

Due to their positive economic return potential, producers have been allocating more acres to canola and to a lesser degree flax. In many cases, particularly in SW Saskatchewan, these crops are relatively new and only been grown on farms for a few years. Producers would like to see how they can potentially improve net returns from both crops and maintain diversity in the oilseed phase of their cropping system. This project looks at crop inputs and demonstrates the role that they have on healthy plant development, and yield. Five inputs were looked at on canola and flax crops: seeding rate, micro-nutrients, macro-nutrients, herbicide, and fungicide. Starting with a full line of commonly used inputs, we removed each input separately and looked at what affect each input has when removed from a full package and also looked at what affect each input has when added individually to an empty package.

In this trial we achieved the highest yield from the full package of crop inputs in both canola and flax. As well with both crops, we saw the lowest yield from treatments with no macro nutrients. Flax, shows a greater yield reduction from the absence of a herbicide treatment than canola which could be attributed to the control parameters of the two different herbicides. Also, the yield reduction does not appear to be as drastic in canola when you move away from a full package of inputs, whereas, flax yields seem to be impacted more when an input is removed. Under different growing conditions, the impact of various inputs on yield may change.



Acknowledgements

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