

Canola Production As related to establishment!





Canola Establishment Spring & Fall Seedings

Observations over the past years:

- More direct seeding
- Less tillage
- More trashy seedbeds
- Changes in drill types
- Seeding rates lower
- RR varieties for weed control
- Winter Canola establishment

Direct Seeding

- Less packed, uneven seed beds
- More uneven seeding depth
- More precise seeding rates
- Easier setting of drill seeding rates
- Can seed in wetter soils

Less Tillage

- Save moisture in top of seed bed
- Less chance of compaction and crusting
- Better root development than hard packed
- Better moisture retention in the seedbed
- Seed early!

More Trashy Seedbeds

- Roundup Ready Crops help eliminate extra mechanical tillage for weed control
- Help save moisture over the summer due to cooler soils
- Less crusting
- Keep looser soil structure throughout the root development of the canola plant

Changes in Drill Types

- More hoe type drills used successfully
- Early seeding helps on plant establishment
- More precise seeding rates compared to a double disc type drill

Lower Seeding Rates

- Many successful seeding rates at the 3-4 lbs. per acres with Brassica Napus types
- Lower seeding cost
- Better branching and better seedset due to more efficient moisture utilization
- Crop not competing with itself
- Less lodging due to heavier stock on the plant

RR Varieties

- Better plant establishment
- Less insect problems because of less weed pressure
- Better moisture utilization
- Cleaner crops, less dockage
- Easier combine setting
- Cleaner fields to come back with wheat on

Winter Canola Establishment

- Problems the last few years include:
 - Getting seed early enough
 - Retaining seedbed soil moisture
 - Chemical carry over issues
 - Seed into moisture
 - Compensate for soil drying out
 - Hot temperatures dry seedbeds out quickly
 - Seedbeds dry out more after seeding into moisture more than anticipated
 - Winter canola can come up from fairly deep when no crusting develops

Conclusions

- Seed early
- Don't worry about trashier conditions
- Weed control is not an issue
- Don't over seed on your seeding rate
- Don't till your soils too fine and created compaction
- Seed into moisture
- Choose the best varieties for your location

Questions?

