

Winter Survival Results from Ralston Winter Canola Variety Trial

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Planting variety trials gives researchers the opportunity to compare varieties for various traits and characteristics beyond final yields. Six varieties of winter canola were planted in a variety trial near Ralston on August 31st into summer fallow using a HZ deep furrow drill. Individual plant measurements and stand counts were collected on October 27th and survival counts were taken on March 17th. The varieties included Phoenix, Mercedes, Claremore, Surefire, Griffin, and Plurax. The plant measurements consisted of crown height, crown width, canopy width, and leaf count. Leaf count was found to be significantly different for Griffin, while all other plant measurements did not differ significantly across varieties (Fig. 1). This was part of a larger research project across eastern Washington to assess winter canola plant sizes entering winter to better predict their winter survival probabilities. Claremore had a significantly higher winter survival rate and Mercedes had a significantly lower winter survival rate when compared across varieties (Fig. 2). However, final spring plant counts were not statistically different across the varieties (Fig. 3).



Staked canola plant near Ralston captured on March 17th after surviving winter.

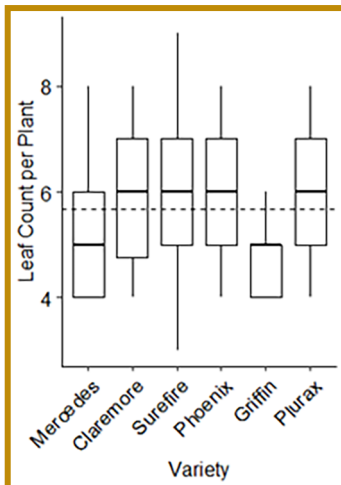


Figure 1. Graph showing that the leaf count for the Griffin variety was significantly lower than the other varieties. The dashed line represents the mean leaf count across varieties.

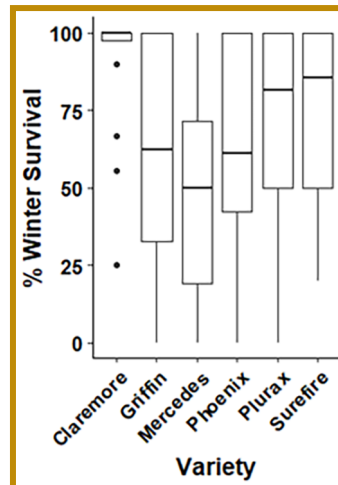


Figure 2. Claremore and Mercedes had significantly different winter survival percentages across varieties with Claremore being significantly higher and Mercedes being significantly lower.

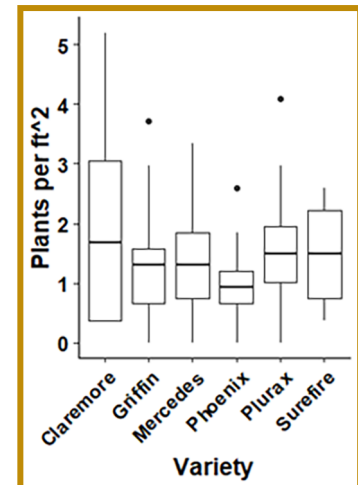


Figure 3. Spring plant counts were not statistically different across the six varieties of winter canola.

Canolage: Dual-Purpose Winter Canola

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Dual-purpose crop production is common in the wheat growing regions of the Southern Great plains and part of Australia. Dual-purpose crop production involves the utilization of the vegetative stage of an over winter grain crop as a