

Canola 101

The Basics

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Prior to Planting

- ▶ **Conventional Tillage**
 - **Work fields early not just before planting.**
 - **You want a firm stale seedbed.**
 - **No-till:**
 - **All about residue management.**
- ▶ **Get a soil test including S**
- ▶ **Insurance and contracts ?**

Planting

- ▶ **Calibrate drill.**
 - **Suggest going to 12-16" row spacing. Plug every other hole.**
 - **Easier to calibrate with no yield loss.**
 - **Or consider slow down kit.**
- ▶ **Plant after a rain not before a rain.**
- ▶ **Don't need to work ground before planting.**
- ▶ **Slow down- Do not exceed 5 mph**

Planting Dates and Depth

- ▶ **Sept 10 to Oct 10 for Insurance**
- ▶ **Depth – 0.75 to 1.5 inches**
- ▶ **Use treated seed.**
- ▶ **Put it in dry ground as last resort**
- ▶ **No-Till:**
 - **Best to move straw out of the planting furrow. Go to 12-16” rows or use a planter on 30” with trash movers.**
 - **Plant before conventional (soil temp cooler)**
 - **Best to see a little bit of dirt on surface.**
- ▶ **Plant more than one variety.**

Residue Management

30 Inch Row Spacing

Residue Management

Preplant Burn

Low Soil pH

Lime if needed



Residual SU

**Use a variety with
the SURT trait**



Diamondback / Cutworm Larvae



The 3 Aphids in Canola

- ▶ **Turnip Aphid**
 - Fall to early spring
- ▶ **Green Peach Aphid**
 - Fall to late spring
- ▶ **Cabbage Aphid**
 - Late spring to seed formation
- ▶ **Scout Regularly**
- ▶ **Spray on threshold guidelines**



Spray Weeds Early!

Early Spray
Within 6 weeks
Then again in
spring

Late Spray
Competition problems

Fertility / pH

- ▶ **Nitrogen: 2.5 lbs N/bu**
 - **Best to apply in fall and spring (split application)**
- ▶ **P and K: Same as wheat recommendation**
- ▶ **Sulfur: 10-20 lb./A – Follow soil sample.**
- ▶ **Do not graze if seed production is objective.**
- ▶ **Yields reduced at 5.5 pH or lower**
- ▶ **Best at pH of 6 to 7**

Harvesting Options

Direct cut



Swathing



Pushing



Direct Cut

- **Must harvest when ready**
- **Moisture below 10%**
- **Will still have some green pods**
- **Stalks are green, canola is dry**
- **High risk of loss due to shattering**
- **Reglone (diquat)**
 - Preharvest desiccant
 - Even out maturity
- **Cut just under pod layer**



Pushing



- **40-60% seed color change**
- **Wind and storm protection**
- **Tall & thick canola**
- **Longer window than swathing**
- **Dries down naturally**
- **Crop needs to be 30" or taller**
- **Harvest opposite direction**

Swathing



- **Evens maturity**
- **50-60% of the seeds are black**
- **Draper header on swather**
- **Packer or roller, Wind protection**
- **Pickup 6-7 days after cutting**
- **Best recommendation**



Summary

- ▶ **Insurance and contracts**
- ▶ **Soil Test**
- ▶ **Calibrate**
- ▶ **Soil prep early**
- ▶ **Plant in firm soil and slow down**
- ▶ **Scout Regularly**
- ▶ **Spray weeds early**
- ▶ **Plan harvest method**
- ▶ **Harvest when ready**

