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.
30 Inch Row Spacing
Residue Management

Preplant Burn

OKANOLA
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
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
• **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
• 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