

Variability in Vernalization Requirement of Oilseed Rape. (C01-rife082940-Poster)

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Abstract:

Canola has the potential to become an important winter annual crop in much of the United States. To increase its consistency as a crop, cultivars need to be developed with increased winter hardiness. The effect that the vernalization requirement has on winter survival is not completely understood. The objectives of this study were to develop an accurate method of determining the vernalization requirement and determine if a relationship exists between the vernalization requirement of a cultivar and its field survival. Vernalization requirements for twenty oilseed rape cultivars were studied under laboratory conditions and estimates were calculated. Seedlings of 20 lines were placed in a vernalization chamber at 5C for 1 to 12 weeks, removed to the greenhouse, and flowering notes were taken. Final leaf number was also determined in an attempt to determine the point where the vernalization requirement was met. Cold hardiness data from the field was compared to the vernalization requirements obtained for each cultivar. In general, lines with the greatest winter hardiness also had longer vernalization requirements. Exceptions were also identified.

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