Fall Seeding Technology to Sustain Canola and Mustard Production in the Semiarid Prairie. (C03-angadi095549-Oral)

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Abstract:

Canola production in the semiarid Canadian prairie is increasing. Fall seeding allows canola and mustard to complete flowering during the cooler and wetter spring and early summer months. Four canola and mustard cultivars were seeded during late fall (November: just before freeze-up), early spring (late April) and late spring (late May). Canola and mustard flowered earlier when seeded late fall compared to late spring. Generally, compared to late spring seeding, late fall and early spring seeding increased seed yield by 36 and 53% in fallow trials and 31 and 82% in stubble trials, respectively. Canola and mustard cultivars used limited water more efficiently when seeded in late-fall or early spring compared to late spring. Fall and early spring seeding reduced plant population. Coating the seed with a polymer prevents water absorption preventing canola emergence in the fall. Coated seed could be planted up to 3 weeks prior to freeze up without yield penalty. Yields of coated and noncoated seed were similar when planted at freeze up. Seeding management improves the sustainablity of canola and mustard production in the semiarid prairie.

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