

# **Agronomic performance of Safflower in the Central Semiarid Region of Argentina. (C03-brevedan072718-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

The objectives were to evaluate some safflower genotypes for potential introduction into existing farming systems of the Semiarid Central Area of Argentina and to determine the effect of sowing dates on yield and yield components. Different cultivars were tested during three years, in three different locations, for grain yield, oil content, number of branches and heads per plant and number of seeds per head. Grain yield ranged from 3.2 t ha<sup>-1</sup> to 1.4 t ha<sup>-1</sup> with irrigation, and from 1.3 t ha<sup>-1</sup> to 0.6 t ha<sup>-1</sup> under dryland conditions. Although this crop is capable to obtain moisture from depths not available to other crops, its reproductive period often is limited by hot, dry growing conditions in December and January. Safflower due to its cycle allows the sowing of winter annual forages, pastures or wheat with an adequate fallow. But has to compete with other important crops of the region - wheat and sunflower- so only with a strong commercial and official support can be incorporated as a crop in the rotation of the region. The introduction of hybrids with high oleic or linoleic acids improve the perspectives of this crop in the best areas of the region, but varieties fit better on drier areas than hybrids.

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