Canola Dormant Seeding in North Dakota. (C03-henson161827-Poster)

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Abstract:

Dormant (frost) seeding is the practice of planting a crop in the fall, close enough to freeze-up to prevent germination before winter. The principle advantage to this practice is time management, reducing planting time in spring and spreading out the spraying and harvesting operations in summer. However, dormant seeding involves considerable risk of premature germination and poor stand establishment. Planting immediately before fall freeze-up is ideal, but difficult to predict, and large acreages reduce flexibility. Also, periods of warm weather in winter and may result in germination. Polymer seed coatings have been developed to reduce the risk of premature germination and permit planting up to three weeks before freeze-up. Field experiments were conducted at North Dakota State University research extension centers and research sites to evaluate the effects of polymer coating and planting date on performance of canola (Brassica napus L.). Although dormant seeding resulted in advancing harvest-year field operations up to 2.5 weeks, reduced stands and significant yield reductions compared to spring seeding were observed in almost all site-years.

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