

Niger Research in Northwest Minnesota. (C03-porter132026-Poster)

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Abstract:

Niger (*Guizotia abyssinica*) is imported into the USA for use as birdseed. An early maturing cultivar 'EarlyBird' may have potential to be grown in the northern Great Plains. This study evaluated the effect of different EarlyBird seeding rates on seed yield, test weight, plant height, and pest incidence. Eight to ten seeding rates ranging from 0.56 to 16.8 kg/ha were evaluated at seven environments. Studies were conducted at Red Lake Falls (RLF) and Kennedy (Ken), MN in 2000 and 2001, and at Carrington (Car), Langdon (Lang), and Prosper (Pro), ND in 2001. In general, a seeding rate above 3.4 kg/ha was necessary for optimum yields, although at three environments (RLF00, RLF01, and Car01) seeding rate did not influence seed yield. Yield at three environments planted in mid-May (RLF00, RLF01, and Lang01) was 491 kg/ha compared with 260 kg/ha for the other four later-planted environments. Plants at the lowest seeding rate had more heads per plant and higher shoot weight than the other seeding rates evaluated, however the head weight did not differ. For production purposes a seeding rate of 6.7 kg/ha provided optimum yields with good canopy closure and uniform seed maturation.

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