

Canola as an Alternative Crop for Southern Illinois. (C03-schmidt141909-Oral)

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Abstract:

Winter canola variety trials at SIUC began in 1985 because of industry sponsored research and grower interest. In 1991 industry and grower interest in canola for the southern Illinois region was diminished due to a severe winter that resulted in a complete crop loss. SIUC began cooperation in the National Winter Canola Variety Trial in 1996. Two locations (Carbondale IL and Belleville IL) were planted each year for the past 7 years with planting dates occurring between 9/15 and 9/26. Plot size was 1.7 m wide by 9.1 m long at a seeding rate of 6.7 kg/ha. Yield was measured in 9 environments. Test means for winter survival ranged from 26% to 98%, and yields from 1365 kg/ha to 2831 kg/ha. The mean yield of the best variety (Jetton) was 2577 kg/ha. Based upon July 2002 prices, gross income would range from (USD)316/ha to (USD)640/ha. Some of the problems encountered include, poor stand establishment caused by dry weather at planting, winter survival, lodging, and shattering. Future research efforts will include continued cooperation in the National Winter Canola Variety Trial, use of canola as a green manure crop, and comparison of canola with wheat for double crop rotation with soybean.

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