

RAPESEED/ CANOLA GROWING



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Introduction

Rapeseed is a cool climate crop, it is suitable for high altitude areas(1800-2400)m asl with average rainfall of 700mm. Optimal temperatures for germination is between 15-20OC. Low temperatures at flowering is a prerequisite.

Seeding depth

Seeding should be at 1-2 cm deep in the soil, at a spacing of 18cm by drill or by broadcasting.

Fertilizer

The main nutrients supplied are nitrogen and phosphorous. The most successful fertilizer programme should be based on the knowledge of the soil nutrient level.

Seed requirements

The seed bed should be fairly level ground and

should be fine and firm to enable the crop to compete with the weeds.

Seeding

Optimum seeding rate is at 5.5kgs/acre. The seed should be in good state-healthy viable seed that should have attained full physiological maturity

Soils

It does well in drained sandy loams and loams soils. Heavy soils are prone to crusting which results in uneven germination. Soil PH should be less than 5 to avoid phosphorous fixation

Rotation

Growing rapeseed continuously is risky since it provides an ideal environment for diseases and insect



pests build up. The rotation should include cereal crops (Wheat, Maize, Barley). Research has shown that the yield of rapeseed on barley stubble is one and half times higher than yield of continuous rapeseed.

Yield

It ranges from 750 - 1500kgs/acre

Uses

- 1) Rapeseed is preferred since it has soft seeds and it is easy to extract oil from the seeds.
- 2) The cake is a useful by-product in livestock feeds formulation
- 3) It is used as a rotational crop for cultural crop protection and enhancing soil fertility.

