

Area producers are constantly scouting for new crops to grow in their operation to diversify rotations and improve economic returns. Many have heard of Brassica carinata and are interested in growing the crop since it is adapted to the southwest area of the province. There has been some agronomic work done, but very little in this area. Developing a preliminary agronomic package for the semi-arid region will provide much sought after regional data for producers. This initial knowledge is critical to those who wish to grow this crop successfully and will hopefully encourage adaptation by others. The projects were designed to demonstrate the following agronomic issues; seeding date, seeding rate, and N fertility. Focusing on the brassica carinata seeding date the treatment included the following:

Brassica Carinata Seeding Dates:

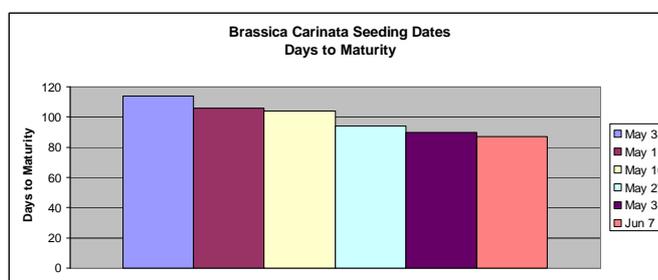
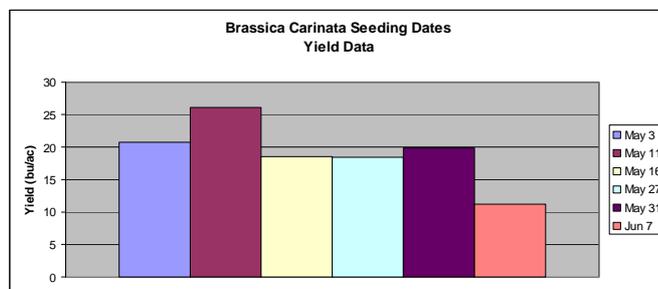
- 1) May 3
- 2) May 11
- 3) May 16
- 4) May 27
- 5) May 31
- 6) June 7

Seeded Rate: 6 lb/ac

Fertility: 73 lb/ac N; 20 lb/ac P, and 10 lb/ac S

Results show the seeding date of May 11th had significantly higher yield than all other treatments with the June 7th seed date having the poorest overall yield. Days to maturity ranged from 87 days for the June 7th seed date to 114 days for the May 3rd seed date. We found earlier seeding dates enabled plants to grow evenly, branch out, and matured normally, where as the later seeded treatments tended to grow uneven and more vertical. Actual days to maturity were less with the later seeded treatments, but the days gained did not totally compensate for the days lost from delayed seeding and matured later come harvest.

Depending on spring conditions it has been our experience that the earlier seeding dates from mid-April to mid-May will provide the best overall yield results.



Seeding Dates



May 11

May 27

June 7

For information on B. carinata fertility and seeding rates, along with other research projects visit www.wheatlandconservation.ca

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