

## CANOLA

**Canola** is one of two cultivars of rapeseed or *Brassica campestris* (*Brassica napus L.* and *B. campestris L.*). Their seeds are used to produce edible oil that is fit for human consumption because it has lower levels of erucic acid than traditional rapeseed oils and to produce livestock feed because it has reduced levels of the toxin glucosin. Canola was originally naturally bred from rapeseed in Canada by Keith Downey and Baldur R. Stefansson in the early 1970s, but it has a very different nutritional profile in addition to much less erucic acid. The name "canola" was derived from "**Canadian oil, low acid**" in 1978. A product known as LEAR (for *low erucic acid rapeseed*) derived from cross-breeding of multiple lines of *Brassica juncea* is also referred to as canola oil and is considered safe for consumption.

### SOWING AND PLANTING

**Climatic Requirements:** Provided the correct variety is selected, canola is adapted to a wide range of climates. It is a frost tolerant crop, but frost will cut the early flowers in cold areas. **Preferred Soil Type:** Deep well drained soils high in organic matter. Early crops require light warm soils. Preferred out of late frost areas Sandy soils and red soils being ideal.

**Seed Required:** 2-5kg/ha

**Optimum Soil Temperature Range for Germination:** 7.0-25.0°C

**Emergence Time:** 3-15 days, optimum 6 days.

**Plant Spacing:** 18 – 30 cm rows

**Plants per Hectare:** 300000-500000

**Sowing Dates:** Winter sown – May to July.

**Other Sowing and Planting Information:** Canola is very sensitive to fertiliser burn so no more than 10Kg/ha nitrogen with the seed

### FERTILISER

**General:** Optimising of fertiliser applications is necessary if top quality and maximum returns are to be achieved.

**Optimum Soil Test Levels:** N = 100-150, P = 45-75, K = 15-25, S = 20-40, Ca = 10-15, Na = 1-10.

**Base Dressing (kg/ha):** Main crops – N = 80.0, P = 25.0, K = 40.0. S =25 Zn =1 It is preferable to broadcast this dressing and work it into the soil prior to planting or seeding.

**Side Dressing (kg/ha):** Main crops and cool growing conditions – N = 60. Apply at 3-4weeks, when direct-seeded seedlings are 20-30cm in height, using 2-3 split applications.

**Trace Elements:** Boron – Where a deficiency of boron is proven an application of 20-40 kg/ha of borax will be sufficient to correct this in following seasons. Boron applications must be used cautiously. It is important to have a boron deficiency positively identified prior to embarking on a correction programme and not to use more boron than that recommended. Excessive levels of boron can be exceedingly phytotoxic to succeeding crops for a number of years.

Molybdenum – A deficiency of this element can usually be corrected by raising soil pH levels.

Application rates of sodium molybdate for alkaline soils with a low rainfall are 250g/ha and acid soils with a high rainfall are 3kg/ha.

**Optimum pH Range:** 6.0-6.8

Safe Fertilisers

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# Safe Fertilisers – Crop Info



## Canola Program

### **Ground preparation:**

Apply; 1 tonne/ha Lime **or** Safe Organic Liquid Lime @ 40lt/ha in 300lt/water

**Or** Alroc Extraphos @ 200kg/ha

**Or** Gypsum @ 1 tonne/ha (Depending on soil report)

### **Pre Plant**

Apply 60 Kg/Ha Safe Coated Urea (optional this can be fitted in as required)

Apply 100 Kg/Ha Alroc 15.3.8 Supablend

Apply 10lt /ha Activator (This is to lift the carbon level in soil, the energy)

**Seed coating;** Vital Phos @ 4lt/tonne of seed with adequate water to ensure complete seed cover

**Planting Option; Liquid Injection-** Vital Phos @ 10lt/ha in 300lt water

### **In crop Fertiliser requirements:**

#### **Optional Top up;**

Vital Mix @ 5lt/ha mixed into 200lt water/ha

#### **Nitrogen:**

60kg/ha Safe Coated Urea and then Monitor through the season.

#### **Multi Nutrients:**

Vital Trace @ 3lt/ha

Vital K Blast @ 7 lt/ha to finish the crop off

The above mentioned application rates can be adjusted to what is economical. These adjustments may not provide the ideal nutrient ratios but should replace some of the nutrients that are removed by the crop.

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### **Disclaimer**

The above program will be affected by soil variation, testing errors, seasonal factors and management skills. Any recommendation should be acted upon as part of an ongoing fertiliser program. No responsibility can be accepted for any of the above matters or other matters that are beyond our control.

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