IX CONVENTIONAL VARIETY TRIAL - *B. NAPUS*

Objective: To evaluate agronomic differences between newly registered and recommended varieties in a given area as submitted by the seed trade.

Background: The large numbers of canola varieties available can make the task of choosing a variety for a specific farm challenging. Yield, crop quality and disease resistance are important variety traits to consider in the selection process. However, other agronomic factors such as lodging resistance and harvestability are also important factors. Varieties in the trial are selected and submitted by the seed trade and compared against the check (Hyola 401) and the industry standard Q2.

Methodology: The variety trial was conducted with four replicates in a randomized complete block design. Identical agronomic practices were used for the entire trial. This included the same tillage, fertilizer, weed control and post-emergent fungicide treatments. Seed treatments included any treatment that was standard for the variety. The entire trial was seeded on the same day. Canopy closure was determined by the number of days after planting (DAP) required for the variety to reach 95 % ground cover. Swathing commenced when seed colour change was 30 to 40 %, and harvest was completed under suitable conditions.

Observation: The trial was seeded on May 16 into good moisture. Conditions were ideal for crop establishment, but turned hot and dry leading up to bloom (see ***Site Information***). Losses from a hailstorm on August 17 ranged from about 10 to 15 % in the first replicate to 0 to 5 % in the fourth replicate.

Results:

B. NAPUS VARIETY TRIAL YIELD, ECONOMIC & QUALITY RESULTS Thief River Falls, MN								
Treatment	**Yield (%)**	**Yield (lb/ac)**	**Yield (bu/ac)**	**Contribution Margin ($/ac)**	**Canopy Closure (DAP)**	**Oil (%)**	**Growing Degree Days**	**Days To Maturity**
Hyola 401	100	2055	41.1	29.20	28	41.5	1167	85
Q2	87	1786	35.7	14.95	30	41.2	1167	85
LG3311	87	1786	35.7	9.79	29	42.2	1135	83
HyClass 601	87	1786	35.7	5.74	28	40.8	1167	85
Canterra 1492	85	1743	34.9	0.48	29	40.8	1155	84
LG3366	85	1742	34.8	5.93	29	41.7	1167	85
LSD (0.10) CV%		107.9 4.8	2.16 4.8		1.5 4.2	0.41 0.8		0.8 0.8

Note: Hyola 401 was used as a check in this trial.

Discussion: The check (Hyola 401) was significantly higher yielding than any of the other varieties. Hyola 401 also had the highest contribution margin compared to all the other varieties. Contribution margins reflect differences in seed cost and yield. LG3311 had the highest oil content while HyClass 601 and Canterra 1492 had the lowest oil content. LG3311 was the earliest maturing. Q2 was the last variety to reach canopy closure.