

II INTRODUCTION

The Canola Council of Canada initiated Canola Production Centres to address the ongoing need for canola production technology transfer as identified during the Grow with Canola program. The Canola Production Centres are a joint effort between producer groups, industry representatives and provincial governments and their extension personnel. The continuing co-operation of these groups, co-ordinated by the Canola Council of Canada, ensures the ongoing success of the Canola Production Centres.

The goal of the Canola Production Centre program is to improve the quality and yield of the Canadian canola crop, thereby improving profitability for both producers and processors. The Canola Production Centres provide a focal point for the transfer of canola production technology, thus enhancing interaction among the various industry participants. The specific goals of the program are to increase the yield of oil and protein, and to increase the margin per unit of production.

The program consists of four components:

1. Canola Production Centres operate on a field scale, addressing a wide range of agronomic topics of regional and national interests. Typical plot sizes are 20-40 feet wide by 300-400 feet long. All trials are replicated and randomized.
2. Satellite locations operate on a field scale, addressing one or two topics of interest to the local community.
3. Communications through distribution of the results from the Canola Production Centres in annual regional reports and multi-year summaries; and extension activities.
4. Agronomic research conducted by either public or private research organizations in conjunction with the activities of the Canola Council at Canola Production Centres.

A series of summer tours were held throughout the growing season at the main Canola Production Centres that allowed the opportunity to view the various projects. All sites were signed and copies of site plans were available at the entrances to allow for self-guided tours at any time other than scheduled tour dates.

Quantitative information obtained from the Canola Production Centres included many agronomic factors such as early season plant counts, crop yields and lodging ratings on varieties.

Note: *The material contained in this report is a collection of agronomic information from a specific location and only from one site year. Therefore, it should be observed and understood accordingly.*