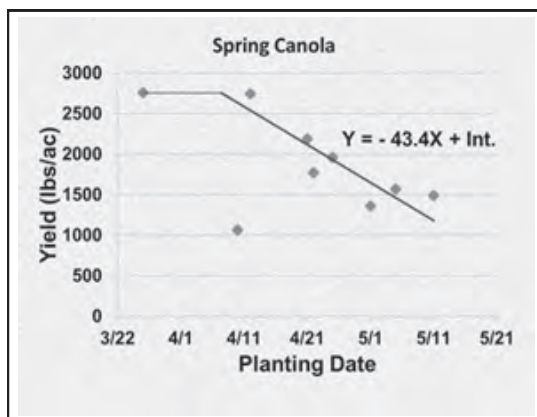
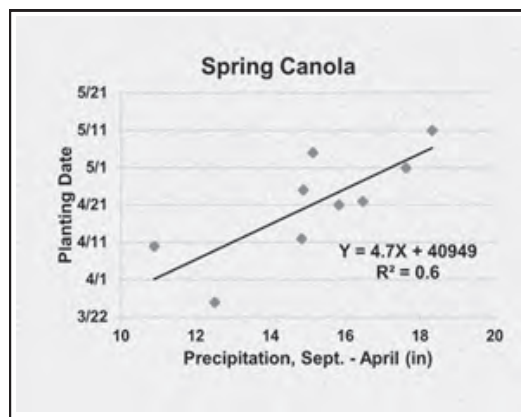


yield decreased 43 lbs/acre for every day seeding was delayed after April 12th. Economic analyses show that while spring canola had negative net returns, other rotational crops were also unprofitable. Given current market prices for canola, the economic analyses would change dramatically, as it is at more than double the average price of \$12.80 per 100 lbs during the study period.



Spring canola planting date effects on seed yield at the WSU Cook Agronomy Farm.



Relationship between spring canola planting date and September through April precipitation at the WSU Cook Agronomy Farm.

Is Spring Canola Viable in North Central Washington?

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Very little spring canola research has been conducted in the wheat/fallow region with the exception of irrigated systems and one year when spring canola was planted in lieu of a failed winter canola crop with this research team. There has been sporadic canola production in north central WA during the last several years. We initiated this study in 2011 to determine the optimum row spacing for spring canola, and if there were any particular varieties that performed well in this environment.

In the spring of 2011, two glyphosate tolerant spring canola varieties (early and late maturity) and one glufosinate tolerant variety were planted in 7- and 14-inch row spacing at the same plants/A population. Data collected include crop population, yield, and oil quality. When averaged over row spacing, Invigor (glufosinate tolerant) canola yielded 935 lbs/A compared to the glyphosate tolerant DKL late maturing (1,120 lbs/A) and early maturing (1045 lbs/A) varieties. Yields were slightly higher in the 7-inch spacing for both the Invigor and late maturing DKL variety compared to the 14-inch spacing. Both glufosinate and glyphosate controlled all annual grass weeds and broadleaves such as Russian thistle, kochia, mustards, and prickly lettuce. Oil quality analysis is pending.

We have seeded spring canola again this year with the same methodology described above. We believe spring canola is an 'opportunity' crop for both irrigated and dryland production in this region. If soil moisture is sufficient in the spring for germination a grower may opt to seed spring canola, or it can be seeded in the event of a failed winter canola crop the previous fall. After data collection this year we would like to begin the process to procure crop insurance for spring canola in Okanogan and Douglas counties as we did for winter canola several years ago.



Spring canola row spacing study.