

Canola Time of Sowing

Summary: in the Southern Mallee canola is best sown from mid May onwards (earlier sowing can lead to problems with frost). Sowing in July is too late.

Aim: To determine the optimum time of sowing for canola in the southern Mallee

Methods: Karoo (tt canola) and Monty were sown in replicated plots on May 16, June 3 and July 11. Simazine was applied to the Karoo prior to each sowing time. The canola was sown with 100 kg/ha of Mallee Mix 1 and 60 kg/ha of Urea was pre-drilled.

Results:

	Yield (t/ha)		Oil (%)	
	Monty	Karoo	Monty	Karoo
May 19	1.24	0.94	37.6	34.6
June 4	0.93	0.90	37.6	35.0
July 11	0	0		

The late sown crop in July failed and was not harvested.

Interpretation: Sowing in May or early June was a benefit to the canola. The July sowing failed (by July most of the earlier sown canola was very small, blue to purple and extremely moisture stressed).

Commercial Practice: Canola should be sown early in the Southern Mallee (mid May onwards). However, sowing too early (ie. early May) could be a problem if there is a late frost (as occurred in 1996).