

2000 Technologies - Polymer coated canola demonstration

SUMMARY

The polymer coated canola had very poor germination, even after 60 mm of rainfall in the month post sowing. More work needs to be done on the coating thickness and cost before polymer coating could be considered as an early sowing tool in our growing conditions.

BACKGROUND

Polymer coated canola seed is used in Canada for the protection of winter sown canola seed. The seed is sown before the winter freeze and the polymer coating prevents the seed from germinating before the ground is frozen. The coating degrades with moisture when the ground thaws and allows the seed to germinate in the spring. This demonstration was to see if the polymer coating could work in our conditions for early dry sowing of canola to prevent germination with a false break.

METHOD

Mystic canola seed was sent to Canada for polymer coating. Two and three coats were applied to the seed and returned. Unfortunately by the time the seed arrived it was late June so early sowing was not possible. The trial was sown on 23rd June, comparing untreated Mystic (also sent on the same trip to Canada and back) with 2 coats and 3 coats of polymer on the seed. Sowing rate was 5 kg/ha.

RESULTS

Date	Rain mm				
07-Jun	5	Canola sown			
23-Jun	12				
29-Jun	2				
06-Jul	4				
10-Jul	10				
14-Jul	2				
15-Jul	4				
19-Jul	19				
21-Jul	4				
24-Jul	5				
26-Jul	2	Counted 4/8/00	Plants establishment, seedlings/m2		
08-Aug	2		uncoated	2 coats	3 coats
14-Aug	4	Counted 18/8/00	86	16	2
22-Aug	5		99	11	3

INTERPRETATION

The canola coatings demonstrated appeared to be too thick for our conditions with very poor germination even after 60 mm of rain had fallen within the month of being sown.

COMMERCIAL PRACTICE

More work would need to be done on the coating thickness and cost before polymer coating could be considered as an early sowing tool in our growing conditions.