

CANARY SEED NEWS

News from the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CSDCS)
& the Canary Seed Association of Canada (CSAC)

2025 Summer Edition
ISSUE #52

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**Canary
Seed**
Development
Commission of
Saskatchewan

canaryseed.ca
alpistecanada.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

David Nobbs

In 2020, we finally saw stocks of Canary seed, grown in 2004, get flushed out of the growers' bins. Prices reached 30 cents and growers grabbed it. Prices had sat for years in the 25-cent range. In 2021, we experienced a major drought that impacted acreage across a wide swath of Saskatchewan, where 90% of the acreage is grown. We exported 112,000 MT of Canary seed that year and had a grower value at a peak of 57 cents and saw it drop towards 47 cents by the end of that crop year.

We then saw the Ukraine war push all commodities up and had another year of strong values.

Since late 2022, we have generally seen the market decline in value. Generally, lower grain prices in other sectors, high interest costs for our importers and competition from other countries have made exports tough.

While we normally ship 150,000 MT annually, our shipments have been

limited to 130,000 MT. We had a decent crop in 2024 and supplies reached at least towards 200,000 MT. This has continued the price slump. However, a few years ago, 30 cents was considered a strong value. Our perception of decent grain prices is influenced by what we saw last year. And, unfortunately, also due to our costs of production.

In late June, StatsCan released their estimates of Canary seed plantings at about 320,000 acres for 2025. This is an increase of approximately 10% over the 2024 acreage. I think this is a reasonable increase, but it will likely continue to put pressure on our prices. But it's not all bad, as it will decrease the interest for other countries to grow the crop and should reduce our competition. Further, our exports will likely increase. Hopefully, there isn't another 16 years until we hit another peak.

Good luck with harvest, and we hope to see you at the annual meeting in Regina this December.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Nobbs, Chair
Cell: 306-460-9272
dmnobbs@gmail.com

Marvin Kress, Vice-Chair
Cell: 306-527-6017
marvinkress@hotmail.com

Troy Miller
Cell: 306-313-8780
millertime713@hotmail.com

Brad Schemenauer
Cell: 306-921-7705
bradsherry@sasktel.net

Brett Sinclair
Cell: 306-831-7821
bj.sinclair93@gmail.com

Wade Theaker
Cell: 306-460-9012
wadetheaker5@gmail.com

Paul Wood
Cell: 306-529-8822
paul@westwoodagri.com

STAFF

Darren Yungmann,
Executive Director
Cell: 306-231-8733
executivedirector@canaryseed.ca
djyungmann@sasktel.net

Liz Allen, General Manager
Cell: 306-975-6624
office@canaryseed.ca



CSDCS Board at Crop Development Centre
Left to right: Brett Sinclair, Darren Yungmann,
Paul Wood, Brad Schemenauer, Wade Theaker
and David Nobbs
Missing: Marvin Kress and Troy Miller

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN REGINA ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Mark your calendar for the morning of Thursday, December 11, 2025. That's the timing for the annual meeting and information session of the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan.

This year, the meeting will be held at the Atlas Hotel in Regina, SK.

Those unable to attend in person can join the meeting via Zoom. Registered producers joining virtually will be able to ask questions and vote on resolutions.

Watch for details in an upcoming newsletter closer to the event, as well as at www.canaryseed.ca.



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THREE CSDCS DIRECTORS

NOMINATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 AT 12:00, NOON

Nominations are being accepted for three director positions on the board of the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CSDCS).

Directors serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-election for an additional two consecutive terms. The CSDCS board consists of up to seven elected directors who represent all Saskatchewan Canary seed producers and direct the operations and programs of the CSDCS.

Directors are not paid a salary; however, they do receive a per diem for the actual days spent on CSDCS business. Expenses are also reimbursed. CSDCS directors attend approximately five regular board meetings per year. They are sometimes called upon to represent the CSDCS at meetings and major conferences that help shape the Canary seed industry. Some meetings are held via Zoom.

To stand for office, nominate or vote, a person must be a registered producer with the CSDCS. A registered Canary seed producer is any producer who has had a Saskatchewan Canary seed levy deducted in the last three years and who has not requested a refund in the last year of levy payment. All producers selling Saskatchewan-grown Canary seed to registered buyers are automatically registered with the CSDCS.

A registered producer that is a corporation, association, society, farming partnership, producer who has sold jointly with another individual or individuals, or any designation other than an individual, is entitled to nominate, vote and hold office through a designated representative who has been appointed in writing. Completion of a Designated Voting Representative Form is required.

Nomination forms as well as Designated Voting Representative forms can be downloaded from www.canaryseed.ca. Forms are also available from the CSDCS office. Telephone: 306.975.6624 or email: office@canaryseed.ca.

Completed forms must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The forms must be signed by three registered Canary seed producers. Candidates must provide Designated Voting Rep forms if Canary seed was not sold in the individual's name. It is advisable to include four or five signatures in case someone who signs isn't actually registered. It's also important to send forms in well before the deadline so any issues can be addressed before the deadline.

A bio of up to 300 words must accompany each nomination. The bio can include information on the candidate's background, farming operation and ideas for advancing Canary seed. In the event of an election, candidate bios will be provided to voters.

The Returning Officer's contact information, including email, fax and phone number, is included on the nomination form. Completed nominations may be submitted by mail or email.

If required, an election will be held electronically with a mail-in ballot option. New directors officially assume their position after the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Atlas Hotel in Regina on December 11, 2025.

Nomination checklist:

- Nomination form signed by at least three registered Canary seed producers
- Designated Voting Rep forms for the nominee and signers (unless Canary seed sold is under personal name)
- A bio of up to 300 words
- Submission to Returning Officer before September 16

canaryseed.ca
alpistecanada.ca

CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE BREEDING PROGRAM UPDATE

Adam Carter

CDC Canary Seed Breeding & Genetics

OVERVIEW

The 2024 growing season in Saskatoon began with cool conditions and above-average precipitation, which led to high biomass production and some lodging before maturity. The seeding of plots was timely and most of our trial locations produced valuable data. We continue to assess two promising high-yielding glabrous lines for potential variety registration in the next few years. We added a new site near Eston, SK to evaluate advanced replicated yield trials. Research into improving herbicide tolerance in Canary seed is ongoing.

OBJECTIVE 1

To increase the yield of glabrous Canary seed (feed and food types) via population development and multi-year evaluation.

The 2024 Canary seed Registration Trial (CANYT1) was grown in five environments: Seed Farm, Seed Farm (late-seeded), Kernen, Scott, and Eston. Data from one site was not usable due to high variation in yield. Along with five check varieties, twenty lines were evaluated in the CANYT1. This included two advanced lines which show promise for closing or surpassing the yield gap between glabrous varieties and hairy varieties like Keet and Cantate. These lines, C21021 (brown-seeded) and C21104 (yellow-seeded), performed well in 2024, yielding 110% and 118% of CDC Lumio, respectively. Both C21021 and C21104 represent the many years of breeding effort by Dr. Pierre Hucl to improve the yield of glabrous Canary seed. Breeder seed has been

developed for both lines. Five other promising candidate lines were retained for testing in the 2025 CANYT1. A summary of the CANYT1 is provided in a table on the canaryseed.ca website.

Four other replicated yield trials were conducted in 2024. A total of 128 candidate lines were entered into these trials, from which 13 were advanced to the 2025 CANYT1. The emphasis continues to be placed on high yield, short plant height (similar to CDC Alba) with lodging tolerance, and reasonable maturity.

In 2024, both C21021 and C21104 yielded 120% and 122% of CDC Lumio, higher than all other entries in the trial, including Keet (114%) and Cantate (108%). While promising, continued evaluation is necessary to accurately evaluate their performance relative to current varieties.

In our 2024 early-generation, unreplicated yield trials (2.3 m plot length, 5 rows), 512 brown-seeded and 547 yellow-seeded lines were evaluated. From these, 96 brown-seeded and 32 yellow-seeded were advanced to 2025 replicated yield trials based on



Dr. Adam Carter and
Marzi Ghamarihesabi
at the Kernen Crop
Research Farm

We also coordinate the Canary seed Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group (SVPG) trial to generate data for the Saskatchewan Seed Guide and to compare our glabrous varieties directly to Keet and Cantate in multiple environments. The 2024 SVPG trial was grown in seven locations: Kernen, Saskatoon (late-seeded), Scott, Redvers, Eston, and two sites near Indian Head. Five of these sites produced useful data. This was the first year that C21021 and C21104 were compared directly with Keet and Cantate in multi-environment trials.

yield, plant height, lack of ergot, and purity of seed (ie. No mix of hairy with glabrous, or yellow with brown). CDC Lumio was used as the check variety for brown-seeded lines, and CDC Alba was used for yellow-seeded lines. We are targeting a minimum of a 10% yield advantage over check varieties in these preliminary trials.

Eight breeding lines were grown in purification plots at the Seed Farm in 2024. Individual panicles from these lines will be inspected for purity, to provide a good seed source for further



testing and to potentially initiate breeder seed production of top-performing lines.

Approximately 3,090 lines derived from 12 crosses were evaluated in paired hill plots for potential advancement to unreplicated yield trials in subsequent years. Of these, 1054 were advanced for 2025 unreplicated yield testing. An additional 11,273 lines derived from eight crosses were evaluated for their first year as single hills. Approximately 3,400 of these hills were harvested, and from them, 3,316 were selected to be evaluated as paired hills in 2025. At this stage, we are selecting lines based on plant height, lodging, and sometimes grain yield. Many of the lines in our 2024 hill nurseries carry potentially novel dwarfing genes, which confer shorter plant height.

In 2024, we grew 613 bulk plots, which were composed of populations derived from 90 unique crosses and ranged from F2 to F9 generation. Panicles were picked from 48 bulk plots to be evaluated as hills in 2025. Crossing to our highest-yielding glabrous breeding lines was conducted in 2024 to continue development of new populations.

OBJECTIVE 2

To increase the grain yield of glabrous Canary seed via the incorporation of leaf mottle resistance.

While we have not seen the presence of leaf mottle in our Canary seed trials since 1996, breeding lines which were derived from crosses with leaf mottle-resistant parents are now at advanced yield trial stages of the program. These parents were identified approximately ten years ago from a previous ADF project in collaboration with Dr. Randy Kutcher. If leaf mottle becomes a larger concern to Canary seed producers, we have well-characterized germplasm to continue to exploit in our breeding program. Almost all upcoming candidate lines likely carry some level of resistance, which may reduce the risk of leaf mottle damage in a particularly cool, wet year.

OBJECTIVE 3

Selection of lines with enhanced performance with currently registered herbicides.

Several ongoing experiments aiming to identify improved herbicide tolerance in Canary seed were conducted in 2024. Most of these experiments were related to an active ADF project (#20220189) led by Dr. Hucl. In one trial, the effect of Fierce and Force herbicides applied pre-seeding and pre-emergence found reduced Canary seed emergence by an average of 75% relative to unsprayed controls, while grain yield was reduced by 95%.

To attempt to identify Canary seed

accessions with improved tolerance to flucarbazone, a panel of various genotypes was sprayed with a 2X application of flucarbazone in 2023, and after re-testing in 2024, one line was less affected than others, although tolerance is limited. A similar experiment was conducted using Tralkoxydim, and two lines which were tested in 2024 showed yield reductions between 7 and 10%, much smaller than what was observed for current registered cultivars (60%). While yield reductions were relatively small, foliar injury was observed, and days to heading and maturity were delayed significantly. While tolerance to Tralkoxydim may not be at useful levels, these two lines may have improved stress recovery and will be used as parents in our breeding program.

Finally, we continued to grow a large plot (one acre) of a mutagenized population (08CANEMS) on which Fierce is applied pre-seeding. The aim of this project is to screen a very large number of lines for potential tolerance. In 2024, we observed no effect on emergence, some stunting early in the season, but no differences among the population. We will rerun this experiment in 2025 and modify our timing of Fierce relative to seeding date (targeting 2-3 weeks pre-seeding).

Thank you to Marzi Ghamarihesabi for her technical contributions and to Dr. Pierre Hucl.

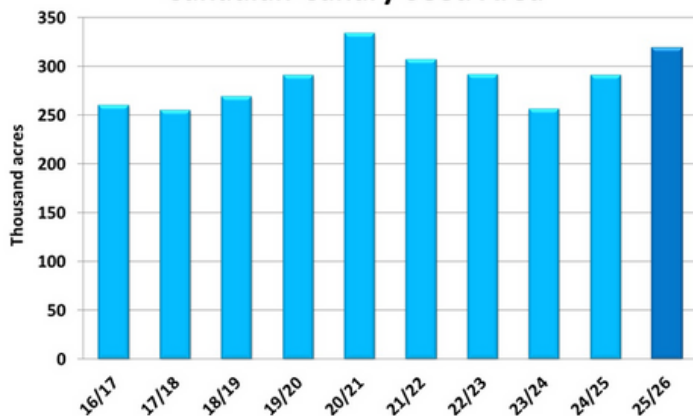
CANARY SEED MARKET OUTLOOK

Chuck Penner

LeftField Commodity Research

Even though we're only partway through the growing season, there's a bit more clarity in the Canary seed outlook for 2025/26. Back in March, StatsCan reported 2025 plantings at 232,000 acres, the lowest in over 10 years, but that seemed too low based on feedback from several sources. At the end of June, the updated StatsCan estimate came in at 319,000 acres, a more reasonable number. That's up 10% from last year and the most acres since 2020/21. Quite a swing from the initial acreage forecast.

Canadian Canary Seed Area



It's still far too soon to get a firm handle on the 2025 yield. Crop ratings from Sask Ag show positive conditions for Canary seed at the end of June, with 74% rated good or excellent, actually above the 10-year average. That's better than ratings for most crops, maybe because of where acreage is concentrated in west-central Saskatchewan and around Regina. That said, the hot, dry conditions more recently likely caused some downgrades, raising uncertainty in the crop outlook.

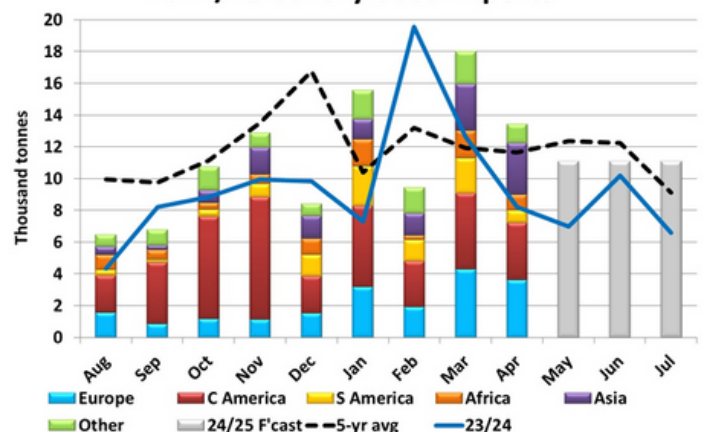
For now, though, we're using an average yield of 1,260 lb/acre, which would be 200 lb/acre less than last year. If that's the case, the increase in 2025 seeded area would be more than offset by the lower yield, with this year's crop ending up around 175-180,000 tonnes, 15-20,000 tonnes less than 2024.

Even if 2025 Canary seed production is lower than last year, supplies for 2025/26 could easily end up larger than

2024/25. That's because the old-crop carryover into 2025/26 is quite large and will more than make up for a smaller crop. And if 2025 yields could get close to last year, supplies would become very heavy. That said, for a crop like Canary seed, a lot of those on-farm supplies aren't really available to the market, at least at current prices.

One reason to be a bit more optimistic about the Canary seed market is the recovery in 2024/25 export demand. If that solid performance can carry on into 2025/26, it could help relieve some of the heavy supplies. Mexico is still the largest destination for Canadian Canary seed. In the past few months, though, we've noticed exports have been increasing to China – only a small buyer in previous years – and if they continue, the "new" demand would be very positive.

2024/25 Canary Seed Exports



Truth be told though, the 2025/26 Canary seed market will need even more exports next year to use up the very large supplies. It's important to remember that one key factor for Canary seed prices is how many farmers will be willing to sell at current prices or if (as is often the case) most of the crop will be binned until prices improve. While disciplined selling can provide some support, keeping large supplies on farms also tends to keep prices flat for longer. And because small increases in bids tend to trigger bumps in farmer selling, prices will struggle to move much higher. Unfortunately, as a result, it's hard to see the potential for a meaningful rally in the short to medium term.

REGISTERED CANARY SEED BUYERS

This list includes companies registered to collect and submit the Canary seed levy. The Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan does not endorse one buyer over another. The licensing and bonding provisions of the Canadian Grain Commission were extended to Canary seed as of August 1, 2021 to provide producers with the same payment protection afforded most other crops. Please refer to grainscanada.gc.ca/en/licences/licensed-grain-companies/ for current information.

Adroit Overseas Ent Ltd
#210, 9639 - 137A Ave
Surrey BC V3V 0C6
E: paras.k@adroitoverseas.com

Agri-Tel Grain Ltd
PO Box 808
Beausejour MB R0E 0C0
T: 204-268-1415
E: pmalinowski@agritelgrain.com

Agroport Inc
772 Golden Farmer Way
Mississauga ON L5W 1A7
T: 647-823-8292
E: agroportinc@gmail.com

All Commodities (AC) Trading Ltd
#1600, 2 Mile Road
Winnipeg MB R2N 4K1
T: 204-339-8001
E: jen@allcommodities.ca

Alliance Pulse Processors Inc DBA
A G T Foods Canada
6200 East Primrose Green Dr
Regina SK S4V 3L7
T: 306-525-7121
E: ap@agtfoods.com

Bornhorst Seeds Ltd
PO Box 71
St Gregor SK S0K 3X0
T: 306-366-2158
E: accountspayable@harvestgrain.ca

Commodious Trading Inc
1205 Maple Rd
North Saanich BC V8L 5P7
T: 250-652-7807
E: dnewman@commodious.ca

D G Global West
#250, 4299 Canada Way
Burnaby BC V5G 1H3
T: 604-597-5060
E: macastillo@dgglobal.ca

E T G Commodities Inc
6601 Goreway Dr, Unit B
Mississauga ON L4V 1V6
T: 647-862-2475
E: grainaccounting.canada@etgworld.com

Etter Seed & Processing Ltd
PO Box 5
Richardson SK S0G 4G0
T: 306-522-1668
E: accounts@etterseed.com

Grain St. Laurent
#315, 407 McGill St.
Montreal, QC H2Y 2G3
T: 514-871-3972
E: guillaume@slgrain.com

Lyft Commodity Trading Ltd
#4, 771 Gibsons Way
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V9
T: 604-800-6352
E: fainne@lyftcommodity.com

Maviga N A Inc
#209, 845 Broad St
Regina SK S4R 8G9
T: 306-721-8900
E: tasha@mavigana.com

Monette Seeds Ltd
PO Box 1298
Swift Current SK S9H 3X4
T: 306-741-7351
E: brad@monettefarms.ca

Natural Specialty Crops Co U L C
RR 2 PO Box 4 LCD Main
Regina SK S4P 2Z2
T: 306-873-1982
E: shellyw.nsc@gmail.com

Paterson Global Foods Inc
22nd Floor - 333 Main St
Winnipeg MB R3C 4E2
E: mlin@patersongrain.com

Prime Seeds International Inc
#309 - 151 W Hastings St
Vancouver BC V6B 1H4
T: 604-998-3231
E: accounting@primeseeds.com

Scoular Canada U L C
#140, 1500 Quebec Ave
Saskatoon SK S7K 1V6
T: 306-986-2200
E: kprudys@scoular.com

Shafer Commodities Inc
2428 - 22 St N
Lethbridge AB T1H 4Y7
T: 403-328-5066
E: kyezovich@shafercom.com

SNTAJ Inc
#1503, 49 Thorncliffe P D R
Toronto ON M4H 1J6
T: 647-894-8261
E: sntaj@yahoo.ca

Southland Pulse Inc
Box 879
Estevan SK S4A 2T6
T: 306-634-8008
E: southland.accounting@sasktel.net

Victoria Pulse Trading Corp
#601, 850 West Hastings St
Vancouver BC V6C 1E1
T: 604-733-1094
E: accounts@victoriapulse.ca

Viterra Inc.
2625 Victoria Ave
Regina SK S4T 7T9
T: 306-569-4293
E: ca.regina.country.support@viterra.com

Buyers as of July 7, 2025
Updates posted on www.canaryseed.ca

THE CANARY SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MISSION:

To coordinate research and market use expansion for the advancement of the Canary seed industry for the benefit of growers and other stakeholders.

The Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan was established in 2006 under the Agri-Food Act, 2004.

Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CSDCS) & Canary Seed Association of Canada (CSAC)



Darren Yungmann, Executive Director

P: 306-231-8733

E: executivedirector@canaryseed.ca

CSDCS Office

PO Box 22125 RPO Wildwood

Saskatoon, SK S7H 5P1

P: 306-975-6624

E: office@canaryseed.ca

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