

CANARY SEED NEWS

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

2026 Summer Edition
ISSUE #54

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Marvin Kress

As we reflect back on seeding and spraying in the last few months, and the challenges we faced, we all managed to get through and get the crop in. Some producers struggled with conditions that were too dry or too wet, and some even got ideal conditions. As farmers, we face these challenges daily, and we always manage what gets thrown at us.

I am honored to be the chair of the Canary Seed Development Commission and have learned a lot during my time serving as a board member since 2022. I look forward to pushing and getting new markets for this commodity.



The AAFC (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) closures have put some burden on us, but we will push through and find other locations to put the levy dollars to work. Lana Shaw at Redvers is carrying on the research that was spearheaded by Bill May at the Indian Head Research Farm for many years.

In our efforts to create a new market for Canary seed as human food, we hired Synthesis to compile a substantial record of research with the goal of helping identify opportunities and guiding us in our next steps.

Looking ahead, the CSDCS will hold its annual general meeting on December 10 at the Saskatoon Inn. It will feature guest speakers and market outlooks going forward, as well as the trial data and projections for the next growing season. We hope to see you there.

As always, we would like to thank all Canary seed growers for their support through their check-offs. The contributions play a vital role in driving innovation, supporting research, and developing new uses for Canary seed.



**Canary
Seed**
Development
Commission of
Saskatchewan

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Canary seed has been under pressure with substantial yields from 2025. The price has been reflective, with high input costs. There has been some pullback on acres, which should impact a price increase to come. Chuck Penner with LeftField Commodity Research provides his thoughts on the market in this newsletter.

You will also find a detailed update on the breeding and genetics work conducted by Adam Carter and his team at the Crop Development Centre.

This season, CSDCS has continued work on fungicide and herbicide trials to increase registered chemicals.

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CSDCS Board of Directors & Executive Director
Brett Sinclair, Troy Miller, David Nobbs, Marvin Kress, Brad Schemenauer,
Wade Theaker, Darren Yungmann and Paul Wood



ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 IN SASKATOON

Mark your calendar for the morning of Thursday, December 10, 2026. 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 Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon, 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 FOUR CSDCS DIRECTORS

NOMINATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 12:00, NOON

Nominations are being accepted for four 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 15, 2026. 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 Saskatoon Inn on December 10, 2026.

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 15

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CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE BREEDING PROGRAM UPDATE

Adam Carter

CDC Canary Seed Breeding & Germplasm Development

OVERVIEW

The 2025 growing season in Saskatoon began with warmer and drier-than-average conditions, allowing the primary breeding nurseries to be seeded in a timely manner, with planting completed by May 16. Ample precipitation throughout June and July supported strong crop growth and clearly differentiated maturity among breeding lines. While late-season lodging complicated the harvest of yield trials and contributed to a delayed harvest schedule, the resulting data were of high quality. Overall grain yields were above average. High-yielding glabrous lines continued to perform strongly relative to the hairy check cultivars, and a new variety demonstrating substantial yield advantages is expected to be submitted for registration within the next two years, pending continued stable performance. In addition, the final year of three different herbicide tolerance trials were completed.

OBJECTIVE 1

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

The 2025 Canary seed Registration Trial (CANYT1) was grown in five environments: Seed Farm, Seed Farm (late seeded), Kernen, Elrose, and Redvers. Along with five check varieties, 20 candidate lines were evaluated in the CANYT1. This included the advanced lines C21021 (brown-seeded) and C21104 (yellow-seeded), which continue to show

promise for closing or surpassing the yield gap between glabrous varieties and hairy varieties like Keet and Cantate. In 2025, C21021 and C21104 yielded 111% and 113% of CDC Lumio, respectively (Table 1). Notably, C21021 was later maturing than all other glabrous lines. Breeder seed is in development for both C21021 and C21104. Four other promising candidate lines were retained for testing in the 2026 CANYT1. A summary of all data collected from the 2025 CANYT1 is provided in Table 1.

Four other replicated yield trials were conducted in 2025. A total of 128 candidate lines were entered into these trials, from which 16 were advanced to the 2026 CANYT1. Candidates were selected based on yield, prioritizing short plant height (similar to CDC Alba)

with lodging tolerance, reasonable maturity, seed purity, and lack of ergot sclerotia in seed samples.

We also coordinate the Canary seed 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 2025 SVPG trial was grown in six locations: Kernen, Saskatoon, Elrose, Redvers, and two near Indian Head. All of these sites produced useful data. In 2025, C21021 and C21104 yielded 112% and 120% of CDC Lumio, compared to Keet (123%) and Cantate (115%; Table 2). This represents the second year of competitive performance for these promising glabrous lines when compared to hairy varieties.

Table 1. Summary of the 2025 Canary Seed Registration Trial (CANYT1)

Entry	Yield (kg/ha)	Yield (% Lumio)	Days to Heading	Days to Maturity	Plant Height (cm)	Test Weight*	Thousand Kernel Weight (g)*
CDC Lumio	2453	100%	54	107	104	69	8.2
CDC Bastia	2273	93%	54	108	107	70	7.9
CDC Calvi	2395	98%	54	108	98	70	8.2
CDC Cibo	2325	95%	55	108	100	69	8.1
CDC Alba	2587	105%	55	109	95		
C21021	2727	111%	60	113	102	69	7.9
C21104	2765	113%	59	109	107	68	8.1
C21114	2510	102%	55	108	96		
C23021	2775	113%	57	110	100	69	7.6
C23026	2767	113%	57	111	106	69	7.8
C23078	2703	110%	58	109	105	70	7.3
C23118	2736	112%	57	109	101	68	8.0
C24003	2537	103%	56	109	97		
C24022	2703	110%	58	108	104	68	8.1
C24024	2706	110%	58	109	104	70	7.9
C24028	2637	107%	57	111	99		
C24043	2578	105%	56	108	100		
C24054	2645	108%	56	110	102		
C24056	2786	114%	58	111	102	69	7.7
C24071	2803	114%	57	110	101	69	8.0
C24081	2655	108%	59	108	107	71	7.4
C24082	2755	112%	59	109	103	71	7.2
C24105	2367	96%	55	107	92		
C24123	2698	110%	58	108	101	68	8.0
C24125	2700	110%	57	106	101	69	8.0

*Test weight and thousand kernel weight were only measured on lines not culled due to agronomic performance

Table 2. Summary of the 2025 Canary Seed SVPG trial.

Entry	Yield (kg/ha)	Yield (% Lumio)	Days to Heading	Days to Maturity	Plant Height (cm)	Test Weight	Thousand Kernel Weight (g)
CDC Lumio	2319	100%	53	106	95	69.9	8.5
CDC Bastia	2179	94%	53	106	101	70.3	8.1
CDC Calvi	2310	100%	54	109	104	71.2	8.4
CDC Cibo	2289	99%	53	105	94	70.0	8.2
C16057	2277	98%	54	106	89	70.2	8.1
C21021	2594	112%	59	111	98	70.7	8.0
C21104	2786	120%	59	106	102	69.7	8.3
Keet	2842	123%	57	112	108	64.4	7.7
Cantate	2666	115%	53	110	99	63.6	8.8

In our 2025 early generation unreplicated yield trials (2.3 m plot length, 5 rows), 558 brown-seeded and 496 yellow-seeded lines were evaluated. From these, 79 brown-seeded and 32 yellow-seeded were advanced to 2026 replicated yield trials based on yield, plant height, lack of ergot sclerotia, and purity of seed (i.e. no mix of hairy with glabrous, or yellow with brown). Our yield checks remain CDC Lumio for brown-seeded lines, and CDC Alba for yellow-seeded lines, with a yield target for selection of 10% over either check. Due to excessively high lodging pressure, no differential in lodging tolerance was observable in 2025.

Seven advanced breeding lines were grown in purification plots at the Seed Farm in 2025. Individual panicles from these lines were inspected for purity, providing a seed source for further testing and initiating breeder seed production of top-performing lines.

Approximately 3,316 lines derived from eight crosses were evaluated in paired hill plots for potential advancement to unreplicated yield trials in 2026. Of these, 899 were advanced for 2026 unreplicated yield testing. An additional 12,444 lines derived from six crosses were evaluated for their first year as single hills. Approximately 3,600 of these hills were harvested, and from them, 3,545 were selected to be evaluated as paired hills in 2026. At this stage, we are selecting lines based on plant height, lodging, and lack of ergot sclerotia.

In 2025, we grew 571 bulk plots which were composed of populations derived from 91 unique crosses and ranged from F2 to F9 generation. Panicles were picked from 48 bulk plots to be evaluated as hills in 2026.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

We still have not seen the presence of leaf mottle in our Canary seed trials since 1996, but continue to evaluate lines derived from crosses with leaf mottle resistant parents in advanced yield trial stages of the program. If leaf mottle becomes a significant problem, we will conduct a more in-depth evaluation of our advanced breeding material.

OBJECTIVE 3

Selection of lines with enhanced performance with currently registered herbicides.

The final year of multiple experiments related to an active ADF project (#20220189) led by Dr. Hucl were conducted in 2025. One trial assessed the effect of Fierce and Force herbicides applied pre-seeding and pre-emergence and, while large effects were observed in 2024, there was no effect on emergence in 2025. This may be due to the dry conditions in May and June and the requirement of both herbicides for adequate rainfall for activation. Over three years, grain yield was reduced by approximately 50% relative to unsprayed controls.

A panel of various Canary seed genotypes were sprayed with flucarbazone. Two lines, PI180864 and PI189547, recovered slightly better than other genotypes although the effect was relatively low. A 1X application of tralkoxydim identified two lines which had yield reductions of 10%, a significant improvement over checks which had reductions of 44%. Higher application rates were associated with significantly delayed heading and maturity, and larger reductions in grain yield. We plan to evaluate segregating breeding populations for differential response to tralkoxydim in future years.

We also grew a large plot (one acre) of a mutagenized population (08CANEMS) on which Fierce is applied pre-seeding. The aim of this project is to mass select a very large population for potential tolerance. Some stunting was observed, but there was insufficient differential in response to the herbicide to identify potential resistance.

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



Dr. Adam Carter & Marzi Ghamarihesabi

CANARY SEED MARKET OUTLOOK

Chuck Penner

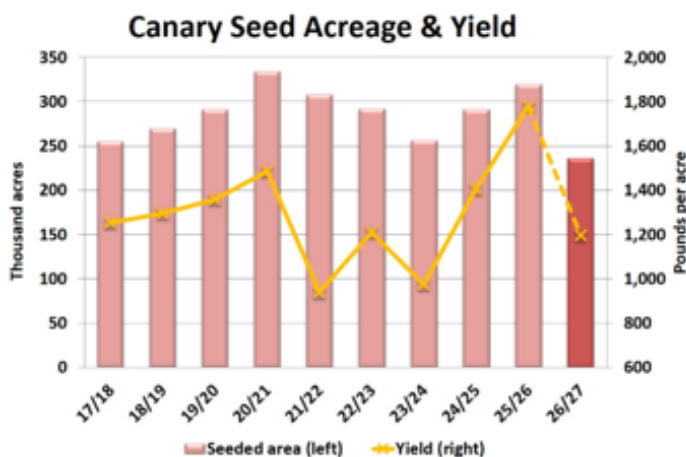
LeftField Commodity Research

Back in March, when StatsCan originally forecast 2026 Canary seed area at a historically high 301,000 acres, we were a bit skeptical. Its latest estimate of 236,000 acres, 26% less than last year, seems more reasonable. Part of that reduction may be the result of planting delays, as some farmers surveyed between mid-May and mid-June may have already cut Canary seed from their plans.

This acreage total would be the lowest since 2013/14 and would be a logical response to the current low-price environment. If we plug in the olympic average yield of 1,197 lb/acre versus (our estimated) 1,780 lb/acre in 2025, production in 2026 would drop to 125,000 tonnes, less than half of last year's total. Keep in mind, crop conditions in 2026 are extremely variable, from very positive to flooded out, so yield forecasts are very tentative.

might get adjusted higher, especially if yields are questionable.

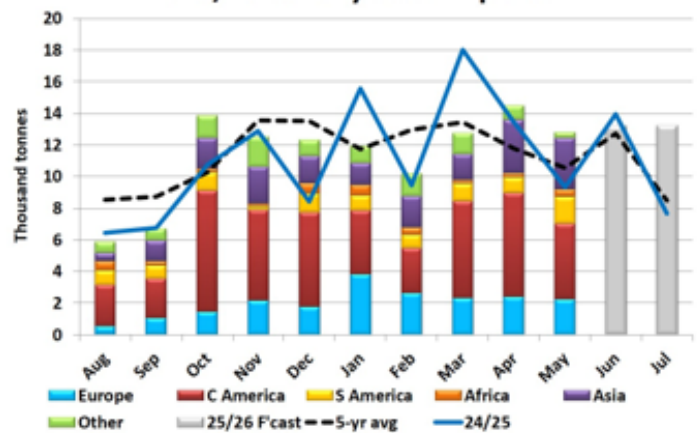
There have been a few bright spots on the demand side of the Canary seed market, particularly exports. Volumes don't tend to fluctuate a lot from year to year, but 2025/26 has shown flickers of promise. Through the first 10 months of the marketing year, exports have reached 113,500 tonnes, the strongest pace since 2022/23. And this total still doesn't include the bulk shipment to Europe that went through Thunder Bay in June, which will boost the total. Full-year exports could easily top 145,000 tonnes and reach a five-year high. It's likely that this year's low prices are encouraging some extra demand.



The drop in StatsCan's Canary seed acreage estimate provides a bit of a light at the end of the heavy-supply tunnel, but the tunnel is still quite long. With average yields, reduced acreage won't make a large dent in supplies for 2026/27. The exceptionally large carryover from 2025/26 of 189,000 tonnes will offset most of the expected drop in the 2026 crop, leaving supplies historically large at 310-315,000 tonnes.

That said, a key consideration for the Canary seed outlook isn't so much the number of tonnes in farmers' bins but how many tonnes they'll make available at various price levels. There will likely be several price thresholds, which

2025/26 Canary Seed Exports



Mexico is still the main destination for Canadian Canary seed in 2025/26 at 46,100 tonnes to the end of May, but China has emerged this year as the second largest buyer at 12,300 tonnes. If these strong volumes to China continue, it will help diversify the market and add more demand when it is sorely needed to work down stockpiles.

The current low-price environment for Canary seed is nothing new for seasoned growers, although it's been a few years since the last lows. Back in 2016/17 and 2017/18, bids were stuck in a market bottom and eventually prices did recover after a few years. But they really only spiked following the serious drought of 2021/22 and that's not the case this year. As a result, the eventual price improvement for Canary seed this time around will be more of a slow gradual process.

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
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AgroHall Foods Ltd
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All Commodities (AC) Trading Ltd
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Bunge Canada Inc
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T: Local facility

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Harvest Grain Trading Ltd
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Lyft Commodity Trading Ltd
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Natural Specialty Crops Co U L C
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Paterson Global Foods Inc
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Prime Seeds International Inc
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Shafer Commodities Inc
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Buyers as of July 17, 2026
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)



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