CANARY SEED NEWS

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

2026 Fall Edition
ISSUE #55

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Marvin Kress

2026 might be one for the books for fall challenges, but we managed and pushed through. The way the spring looked through late summer, we were optimistic about a whooper of a crop. Mother Nature threw a curveball and left all the rain for fall to keep us on our toes. But farmers always seem to get it done, even when put to the test.

Yields around the province appear to be close to the average, which may cause pressure in the market, with the abundance of carryover. There has been a slight bump in price, so far, and it is interesting to read Chuck Penner's market outlook.

As producers, the Board of Directors respects the role the Canary Seed Development Commission plays in supporting agronomic research and market advancement, and we appreciate the many partnerships that advance both the science and business aspects of farming this niche crop.

The closure of the AAFC Indian Head research station meant we had to pivot after a long research relationship with Bill May. Lana Shaw with Agri-ARM (Agriculture Applied Research Management) took on the fungicide trials and seeded plots near Redvers, Indian Head, Yorkton and Melfort. While it remains too early to release the trial results, we understand that, overall, the research team was pleased with how the crop came off.

Ron Pidskalny with Strategic Vision Consulting continues to work on herbicide and crop protection chemistries for Canary seed.

As a board, we are always looking for new markets and ways to use Canary seed to keep demand up. In efforts to expand the market for Canary seed (alpiste) for human food consumption, we have contracted AgriBiz Communications and Synthesis Agri-Food Network to investigate and analyze the alpiste food-use research conducted throughout North America.

Prairie Harvest and InfraReady Products have been outstanding partners in the human food-use project. Our board was impressed by a tour of the InfraReady facility as part of our summer meeting. Both businesses have been supplying alpiste groats and flour for market research and our AGM buffets for several years, for which we thank them.

As part of our commitment to growers, the CSDCS board continues to look for additional research collaborations and opportunities. Please join us at the December 10th AGM in Saskatoon to learn more. We encourage you to get involved, ask questions to experts and have your voice heard.

ANNUAL MEETING & INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Saskatoon Inn - 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK

9:00 am Doors open. Coffee and snacks provided.

9:30 am Opening Comments - Marvin Kress, Chair

9:45 am Agronomy Update - Bill May, AAFC Indian Head

10:15 am Alpiste Human Food Use Update - Adele Buettner, AgriBiz Communications & Claire Cowan, Synthesis

11:00 am Annual Business Meeting

11:30 am Market Outlook for Canary Seed and Competing Crops - Chuck Penner, LeftField Commodity Research

12:30 pm Lunch featuring various alpiste foods

SCAN TO REGISTER

Please visit https://cropweek.com/event/canary-seed/ or scan the QR code above and complete the online form no later than Friday, December 4, to register for either in-person or virtual attendance.

Please advise if you are eligible to vote, which means you have grown Canary seed in the last three years and have not requested a levy refund in the past year.

Everyone is welcome and lunch will be provided at no cost. We request that attendees pre-register so we know how much food to order. Those attending virtually need to pre-register so we can provide them with the Zoom link.

For those who would like to book a guest room at the Saskatoon Inn, the number to call is 1-800-667-8789.

For additional information, please email office@canaryseed.ca or call 306-975-6624.



CSDCS BOARD NOMINATION UPDATE

Four nominations were received for four open positions on the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan board of directors. Levy Central, which acted as the returning officer, declared Marvin Kress of Odessa, Brett Sinclair of Rosetown, Paul Wood of Pense and David Nobbs of Lancer elected by acclamation. Each director brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and ideas to the table, with the desire to improve the Canary seed industry for all growers.

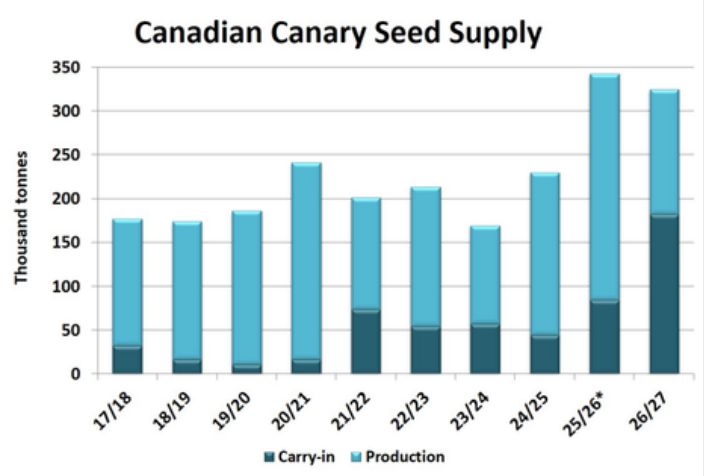
CANARY SEED MARKET OUTLOOK

Canary Seed Gets a Demand Tailwind, but the Bins Are Still Full

Chuck Penner - LeftField Commodity Research

Canary seed is showing signs of moving in the right direction, but the 2026/27 marketing year has started with the challenge of heavy supplies. StatsCan's July 31 stocks estimate came in at 158,500 tonnes, 89% larger than last year, and our own numbers, built on a higher 2025 yield, put the carryover above 180,000 tonnes.

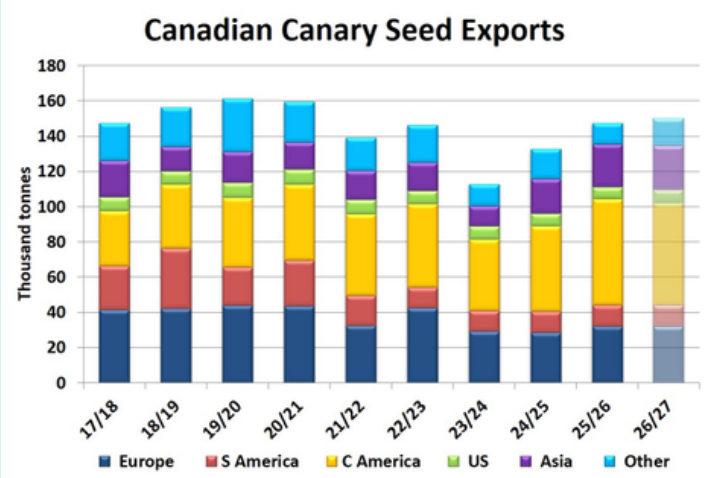
StatsCan pegged the 2026 crop at 142,000 tonnes on a 1,356 lb/acre yield, down roughly 40% from last year's big harvest, but the decline is only enough to keep total supplies from growing further. At around 325,000 tonnes, 2026/27 supplies sit just below last year's record and ending stocks are on track to stay near 160,000 tonnes, leaving the stocks-to-use ratio hovering around 100% for a second straight year.



StatsCan's model-based crop estimate was based on conditions at the end of August, and the crop could end up bigger than reported. Sask Ag raised its yield estimate three reports in a row, most recently to 1,412 lb/acre, now well above StatsCan's 1,302 provincial figure (crop insurance yields have run higher still in recent years).

The harvest, the slowest start since 2010/11, reached 92% complete by late October, and Canary seed's resistance to weather damage means quality is not a major concern. The debate over the exact crop size matters less than it would for other crops: with a carryover this large, the market's real question is how much farmers will sell at any given price, not how much is sitting in bins.

The demand side is where the story improves. Exports finished 2025/26 at 148,200 tonnes, the largest program since 2020/21, led by Mexico at 57,900 tonnes, with China a growing second at 15,800. The momentum has carried into the new year, with August shipments of 12,300 tonnes well above the 7,900-tonne average and the best start since 2022/23. Part of the explanation is price: the average export value slid more than US$200 per tonne over the course of 2025/26, and cheap Canary seed found buyers, much as it did in the big-volume years of 2019/20 and 2020/21.



A second tailwind has developed in the birdseed aisle. The US millet crop looks sharply smaller, possibly down 45% on reduced acreage and drought-hit Colorado yields. Millet prices have rallied to the point where they now sit above Canary seed for the first time since early 2021, helping shift demand toward Canary seed. Argentina adds a little help too, with its 2026/27 crop projected near 41,000 tonnes, down sharply from last year's 60,800-tonne harvest.

None of this makes supplies tight, and the market knows it. Bids have firmed off the preharvest lows, helped by the delayed harvest keeping farmer selling quiet, but the average bid remains stuck near the range that held through all of 2025/26. The governor on any rally is the bin: target prices vary widely from farm to farm, and plenty of old-crop supplies are likely to come forward on even small price improvements, capping each leg higher before it gets far.

The outlook, then, is better than it was a few months ago but is still bounded. The millet substitution story and a smaller Argentine crop give demand a genuine lift, and another 160,000-tonne-plus export year is within reach. Even so, gains will be hard-fought with 2026/27 just the first step in the longer-term market recovery.

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)

Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

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