

Oil Crop Cultivation in Sweden in 1983

Gösta Olsson

The Swedish Oil Plant Growers Association, Sweden

The cultivated acreage of oil crops in Sweden has been 160.000-170.000 hectares during the last years and also in 1983. The winter 1982/1983 was mild and the winter rape and the winter turnip rape were not damaged during the winter. A lot of rain during the flowering period resulted, however, in an early lodged rape which later caused a relatively high chlorophyll content in the harvested seed in some districts.

oil content of summer rape and summer turnip rape was relatively high. The erucic acid contents have been very low in winter rape, summer rape and summer turnip rape with values around one per cent. Most of the cultivated winter turnip rape has a high erucic acid content. The farmers' price for seed with a low erucic acid content but a normal glucosinolate content has been 2:32 Swedish crowns per kg. at a water content of 18 per cent and an oil content of 45 per cent in dry matter.

Table 1 : Oil crop cultivation in Sweden in 1983

Cultivated crops	Hectars	Seed yield kg/ha	Oil content % of dry m.	Chlorophyll content ppm
Winter rape	47.700	3.190	45.8	26
Winter turnip rape	3.610	2.160	45.5	14
Summer rape . . .	55.270	1.940	46.0	13
Summer turnip rape	56.200	1.680	44.9	7
White mustard . .	320	1.400	35.8	9

A survey of cultivated acreage, seed yield and oil content of different oil crops is given in table 1. The seed yield figures have been adjusted to a water content of 18 per cent as this level is the basis for the payment to the farmers. The oil content is given as per cent of dry matter.

Compared with the average figures for several years the winter rape showed a higher yield while the seed yields of the other crops were more normal. The

The most cultivated variety in winter rape was Svalöfs Jupiter. Compared with other varieties marketed in Sweden, Jupiter has the best winter hardiness and the highest mean oil yield. During the mild winter in 1983 the very straw stiff French variety Jet Neuf was, however, outyielding all the Swedish varieties.

Svalöfs Niklas has been the most cultivated summer rape variety. About 20 per cent of the acreage has, however, been cultivated with the double low varieties Weibulls Hanna and Svalöfs Topas. As these varieties are giving a lower yield than Niklas, seeds of the double low varieties are paid with 2:47 instead of 2:32 Swedish crowns per kg. This price difference is increased a little in 1984 and probably about 50 per cent of the summer rape acreage will be cultivated with double low varieties this year.

The acreage of summer turnip rape has been divided among the three varieties Svalöfs Torkel, Weibulls Emma and Svalöfs Tyko. All of them have a low erucic acid content but a normal glucosinolate content.