

# Oil Crops in Sweden - the present situation

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## Production for the domestic market

The cultivation of oilseeds in Sweden has always been aimed at the domestic market. The growers's seed prices have included an aid at a level, which has stimulated a production of about 310 thousands tons per year. Such a quantity is crushed by the only Swedish plant, Exab, Karlshamn. Since 1990, all the meal from that quantity of seeds is placed on the Swedish fodder market.

Concerning the oil produced, earlier only about 30 per cent were intended for domestic consumption. Following governmental rules, the surplus of oil was exported and corresponding quantities of other vegetable oils were imported. Since 1989/90, however, the use of rapeseed oil for human nutrition has increased from 40 to more than 80 thousands of tons per year. The small surplus of oil produced is now mainly exported as different food-products and to a little extent used for non-food purposes. Therefore, the actual need of seeds for the domestic market now amounts to

about 300 thousands tons. That means a cultivation area between about 125 and 155 thousands hectares. The variation in need of cultivation area depends on the distribution amongst the different types of Brassica-crops.

## Decreased area of oilseed crops

Seed production as well as cultivated areas of oilseed crops have been surprisingly stable over a very long period before 1990. On the whole, about 155 thousands hectares were grown, - one third consisting of winter rape and the rest of spring sown crops-, summer rape and summer turnip rape. A new situation appears on the enclosed figure if we compare the average of 1989-1993, and 1994. The area of winter rape today is more changing from year to year due to present possibilities of sowing, secure establishment of plant stands, overwintering and so on. In the same period, the interest of growing spring sown crops has slowly decreased.

Oil Seed Crops in Sweden	Acreage, 1000 hectares		Yield kg/hectare (at a moisture content of 9 %)	
	In average 1989-1993	1994 preliminary	In average 1989-1993	1994 preliminary
Winter rape, 00-type	71,5	46,6	2 745	2 220
Summer rape, 00-type	48,2	53,2	1 690	1 555
Summer turnip rape, 00-type	28,3	27,2	1 500	1 320
Winter turnip rape, 0-type	6,4	1,6	1 650	1 730
Total area: <sup>1)</sup>	154,4	128,7		
Production, 1000 tons:			310	210

<sup>1)</sup> Besides of this professional cultivation yearly an acreage of about 4-5 thousands of hectares is cultivated on set aside land for non food-purposes - until now within a special Swedish regime/rule.

### **Comme sulphur-deficiency - for the first time**

Concerning the harvest 1994, the figures show an unsatisfactory situation with an unusual low seed production. This depends on both present areas and low yields. In August 1993, rainy weather conditions did not permit sowing winter rape to a normal extent and both establishment and overwintering of the crop were disturbed by the continued cool and very rainy climate. The circumstances caused that about 20 per cent of the sown area had to be turned up. Normally, only about 3-7 per cent of the area get lost due to bad overwintering. The special weather conditions also led to very common and expressed symptoms of sulphur-deficiency in late spring. That was the first time Sweden really had to face the sulphur-problem. In many fields, where there was no special sulphur-treatment, the situation resulted in very low yields.

With regard to the expected small area of winter rape, the growers' organisation propagated for an increased area of spring sown crops in 1994. By this activity, the area of summer rape and summer turnip rape was increased by about 20 per cent compared to 1993. The very hot and dry summer however led to a fastened development, specially for spring sown crops. The yields were below the normal level, but all crops were harvested with a good seed quality - a satisfactory high oil content and a very low chlorophyll-content.

### **A lot of cultivars from abroad**

Not only the testing of new cultivars, but also the cultivation seems to be more and more dominated by material from abroad. In 1993/94, the growing of winter rape was carried out with the German cultivars Ceres, Libraska and Silvia, the French Idol and the cultivar Casino from the Swedish breeding company Svalöf Weibull. For 1995-sowings, the French cultivar Bristol and the German cultivar Express are expected to be on the market. Concerning summer turnip rape, the presently used cultivars are the Finnish Kulta, and Agena from Svalöf Weibull. The foreign material in the field tests of cultivars of summer rape often ripens too late. Until now, it has not yielded more than the Swedish cultivars. Therefore, the domestic breeder still is the only one represented on the market of summer rape with the cultivars Paroll, Sponsor and Maskot.

### **Winter turnip rape of 00-type on the market in 1995**

With regard to winter turnip rape, there are well-known difficulties in finding good material of 00-type for practical cultivation. Until now, the Swedish area of that crop has been grown with the Swedish cultivar Per, which is of 0-type. The seed from that cultivation is paid at a price 20 cent lower than what is current for seeds of 00-type. The seed harvest of 0-type is not crushed in Sweden, but exported for other purposes than food and fodder uses. For 1995-sowings, however, the first cultivar of 00-type, Debut from Svalöf Weibull, is expected to be introduced on the market. The results from the testing work show that this winter turnip rape has little lower figures for both yield and winterhardiness than the 0-cultivar Per.

### **Entering the EU means a new model of trade**

In 1995, Sweden will be a State Member of the EU. That causes that the special EU-rules for oilseed crops due to the Blair House agreement will apply to Sweden too. The limited area of oil crops with specific aid (SBA-area) is expected to be about 142 thousands of hectares - an area which has to be reduced by at least 10 per cent according to the rule of set-aside. Due to the need of seeds for domestic crushers, it is considered as very important to exploit the actual Swedish quota of areas in the best way with a useful balance between spring sown crops respectively more high yielding winter crops. Therefore, the dividing of the actual hectare aid into different Swedish regions must be very properly done. This, however, is a thing which has not been decided yet.

Until now, the whole Swedish harvest of oilseeds yearly has been bought by a government executive at a generally fixed seed price. After that, the actual seed quantity has been sold mainly to domestic crushers. In later years, very small surpluses of seed have been exported. Entering the EU will mean a new situation with a free trade. As earlier, producers will grow oilseed crops on contracts with different kinds of agricultural companies, cooperatives and others. Then the companies will have to compete on a free international market, selling seeds at as good prices as possible. Also, the domestic Swedish crusher will meet a new situation, where it is necessary to buy rapeseed of good quality within Sweden as as abroad at prices based on the world market in competition with other actors.