

OILSEED RAPE IN DENMARK 1998

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Acreage

The acreage of rapeseed in Denmark from 1996 to 1998 has been quite steady as seen below, but a tendency to less springrape is seen.

Winterrape, ha	68000	73000	87000
Springrape, ha	37000	30000	21000

The winterrape had been sown in proper time in the autumn and had a good development before winter. The winter caused only minor damage in few places.

The growth started in the early spring and the crop had a very good development.

As a consequence of the good development, the plants became tall and with some lodging as a consequence.

As April was very wet, the sowing of springrape was somewhat delayed, and the yield could not compete with that of winterrape. Yet, the development was good during the summer, but the harvest was late.

Crop management practices.

Increased prizes of seed for sowing, use of hybrid varieties and fewer weed chemicals available has increased the interest in growing rapeseed on 50 cm rows mechanical treated against weed.

Attempts to place N fertilizer in the row compared to broad spreading did not give higher yields.

Sowing of rapeseed on rows 50 cm apart will demand two to three mechanical treatments, evt. also chemical treatments of cereal volunteers.

Strategy for mechanical weed treatment of winterrape sown on 50 cm row distance :

First mechanical treatment, when rapeseed has two leaves. The weed in the rows has to be covered by soil at the mechanical treatment at the stage of rapeseed, where soil can be pushed under the leaves of the plants.

If needed, mechanical treatment can be carried out before plant elongation in spring.

Genetically modified rapeseed.

Herbicide tolerant varieties of spring and winterrape are compared in specific trials with conventional varieties under monitoring of The Ministry of Environment. Long term effect on the environment are observed.

Varieties

Criteria for selection of varieties of winterrape and springrape

- a good winter tolerance (winterrape)
- high yield of standard quality
- good resistance to lodging
- good resistance against diseases
- low content of glucosinolates
- low content of erucic acid

In the value trials in Denmark, 38 varieties of winterrape are on the variety list and 42 are being tested for entering the list. With springrape, 23 varieties are on the national list and 14 are tested for entering the list.

The varieties are mainly conventional breed, but mix hybrids and especially hybrids play an increasing role now.