

Brassica in the United States

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A recent major commercial development was the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of canola oil for general use in food products. An assessment of the effect of that decision on the use of canola oil in the U.S. has been provided by Barbara F. Haumann in an article titled "Canola" in *JOACS* Vol. 62/6, 1985, pp. 996-971. Because of excess supplies of oils from soybean and sunflower, it is likely that acceptance of imported canola seed and its oil will be slow, as it was initially with safflower and sunflower oil.

Importations of canola seed and oil will stimulate interest in U.S. production of canola. Potential areas of production are : the Pacific Northwest where high erucic winter types are already grown on a small area ; the southeastern states and the southern Great Plains where winter types have shown some promise ; and California where spring types would be grown during the winter. In most of those areas rapeseed will be considered a new crop, and will benefit from Report No. 102, titled "Development of new crops", and published in 1984 by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, 250 Memorial Union, Ames, Iowa 50011.

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There is increasing research interest in rapeseed and related species. At the University of California at Davis evaluations of several species showed that *B. juncea* and *B. carinata* were better adapted than other species. The University of Idaho at Moscow has a breeding program on winter rapeseed designed to develop better cultivars of both canola types and high erucic acid types with low levels of glucosinolates. Winter rapeseed cultivars are being evaluated in southeastern states.

Genetic engineering companies in the U.S. are doing exploratory research on *Brassica* species, their interest stimulated in part by the possible commercial developments of rapeseed and in part by the good response of those species to their technologies.

Dr. Paul H. Williams, Plant Pathologist, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, has initiated the Crucifer Genetics Cooperative. Its role, for all cruciferous species, including both field and vegetable crops, is to promote : improved communication between all disciplines of crucifer researchers ; annual workshops ; and conservation and exchange of introduced landraces, commercial varieties and genetic stocks. Over 100 persons attended a Crucifer Genetics Workshop held at Madison, WI on May 30-31, 1985.