

Oil Crop Cultivation in Sweden in 1988

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During several years, the cultivated acreage of oil crops in Sweden ranged between 160.000 and 170.000 ha. In 1988, the cultivation has, however, decreased by about 10%, to 144.000 ha (Table 1). The decreased acreage of winter rape is due to late harvest of barley in the autumn of 1987 and bad conditions for sowing of winter rape. On the other hand, there was a good development of rape crops after sowing. The winter was mild and winter-damage was relatively low. The reason for a decreased acreage of spring turnip rape is low yield and unsatisfactory economical results of this crop in 1987. Also, the economical compensation for

fallow has decreased the cultivation of spring turnip rape.

The yield of the different oil crops was very low in 1987. In 1988, the yield of winter rape and winter turnip rape has been more normal, while the summer rape and especially the summer turnip rape have given very low yield (Table 1). This is mainly due to drought in May and June. Also, the oil content of the different crops have been lower than the average for 1984-1986. The chlorophyll content in the harvested rapeseed has been at an ordinary low level. The mean value in winter rape was for instance 35 ppm in 1987, but not more than 14 ppm in 1988.

Table 1: Oil crop cultivation in Sweden in 1988 in comparison with earlier years

Cultivated crops	Harvested acreage in hectares			Seed yield kg/ha at a water content of 18%			Oil content in % of dry matter		
	1984-86	1987	1988	1984-86	1987	1988	1984-86	1987	1988
Winter rape	41 990	47 520	35 850	3 110	2 470	2 910	45,6	44,0	44,4
Winter turnip rape	1 740	1 560	4 160	2 050	1 680	2 040	45,4	44,4	43,1
Summer rape	55 330	58 710	55 700	2 040	1 490	1 850	46,0	45,5	45,4
Summer turnip rape	63 810	53 020	48 600	1 750	1 430	1 330	44,5	45,6	42,1
TOTAL	162 870	160 810	144 310						

The decrease in cultivated acreage and a low yield have, of course, resulted in a decrease in total production of rapeseed in Sweden in 1988 (Table 2). For several years, the production of rapeseed in Sweden has been approximately 320.000 tons, but this year, it is only estimated at 250.000 tons.

Table 2: Rapeseed produced in Sweden 1984-1988

Year	Production in 1000 tons at 8% water
1984	330
1985	321
1986	322
1987	260
1988	approx. 250

All cultivars of summer rape have a low glucosinolate content. This year, 57% of the spring turnip rape acreage was sown with the low glucosinolate cultivar Sonja. The mean glucosinolate value for the harvest of this crop was 15 micro-moles/g defatted meal. Of winter rape and winter turnip rape, only single low cultivars were used

with the exception of some test fields with the 00-winter rape cultivar Tor.

New cultivars marketed in Sweden in 1988 are: Weibulls Rustan, a 0-winter rape, and Svalöfs Puma, a 00-summer rape. Puma has a remarkably high protein content. Of the tested double low winter rape cultivars, the German cultivars Ceres and Arabella have given the best results in 1988, but both are lower in yield than the now cultivated single low cultivars.

It was relatively dry in May and June (in some districts, very dry) while July and August were more rainy. The weather conditions have resulted in very low attacks of *Sclerotinia*. On the other hand, attacks of *Verticillium dahliae* and *Phoma lingam* have occurred in many fields and these attacks may be one of the reasons for the low yield.

This autumn, an increased sowing of winter rape (72.000 ha) and winter turnip rape (8.000 ha) was carried out. On the other hand, the low yield of spring turnip rape during two preceding years will probably further reduce the cultivation of this crop.