

MUSTARD AND CANOLA

HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MUSTARD AND CANOLA IN THE FIELD

CROPS

Historically, Saskatchewan has produced almost 90 per cent of Canada's mustard crop and is known worldwide for the production of a high-quality product.

Three types of mustard are grown in Saskatchewan:

1. Yellow mustard (*Sinapis alba*);
2. Oriental mustard (*Brassica juncea*); and
3. Brown mustard (*Brassica juncea*).

Three types of canola are grown in Saskatchewan:

1. Argentine canola (*Brassica napus*);
2. Polish canola (*Brassica rapa*); and
3. Juncea canola (*Brassica juncea*).

Contamination of mustard seed with canola/rapeseed will result in downgrading. The maximum allowable limit for No.1 Canada grade in all three mustard types is 0.1 per cent. The maximum allowable limit for No. 3 Canada grade is 0.3 per cent.

To prevent the contamination of mustard with canola, never plant them on the same land. If this is not possible, allow a minimum of four years between Argentine canola and

mustard, and six years between Polish canola and mustard. It is essential to control all wild mustard and volunteer canola plants in the crop(s) preceding mustard.

If purchasing mustard seed, inspect the seed tag. If using saved seed, have it analyzed for wild mustard and/or canola admixtures. Do not plant mustard seed that is contaminated with wild mustard or canola seed.

A common question asked by growers, buyers and consumers of mustard is: "How can we differentiate canola from mustard?"

It is difficult to differentiate brown mustard seed from canola seed, even though brown mustard seed is smaller in size. Oriental mustard and yellow mustard seeds are yellow in colour.

There are also some differences in plant characteristics between mustard and canola types. The illustration below and the table on the next page provide some quick tips on how to differentiate the crops based on seed and plant characteristics.

Comparison of canola and mustard seeds (Continued on next page.)



Canola

Black.
Medium size.

Oriental mustard

Yellow.
Smaller than canola.









Brown mustard

Brown.
Smaller than canola.

Yellow mustard

Yellow.
Larger than canola.



	Crop		
Characteristic	Canola (<i>Brassica napus</i>)	Brown or Oriental mustard (<i>Brassica juncea</i>)	Yellow mustard (<i>Sinapis alba</i>)
Seedling leaves	Smooth on edges, smooth underside.	Smooth on edges, smooth underside.	Very wrinkled edges, spiny underside.
Adult leaves	Dark bluish-green, waxy, either smooth or has a few scattered hairs near the margins. Leaf partially clasps stem. 	Pale-green foliage with a few hairs on the first leaves and leaf blades. The lower leaves are deeply lobed, while the upper leaves are narrow and not lobed. Leaf terminates well up the petiole (leaf stem). 	Light-green leaves, hairy and deeply lobed. Leaf terminates well up the petiole. 
Flowers	Larger flowers with lighter yellow petals. 	Pale-yellow flowers. 	Smaller flowers with mid-yellow petals. 
Stems	Smooth.	Smooth.	Hairy.
Pods	Larger pods with smooth, medium-conical beak. Pods are usually at right angle to the stem. 	Smooth, long-conical beak. Usually at a 45-degree angle to the main stem. 	Hairy, spiny, long, flat beak. Pods are at right angle to the stem. 