

Canola: Short Fallow (No-till)

Central Zone - West

Winter 2012

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:

Operation	Month	Machinery			Inputs			Total Cost \$/ha
		hrs /ha	Cost \$/hour	Total \$/ha	rate/ha	Cost \$	Total \$/ha	
Weed control eg: glyphosate 540 g/L (Roundup PowerMAX®)	Dec/Jan	0.03	76.36	\$2.50	1.20 L	\$8.67/L	\$10.40	\$12.90
Weed control eg: triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon®)	Dec/Jan	with above			0.10 L	\$19.60/L	\$1.96	\$1.96
Weed control eg: glyphosate 540 g/L (Roundup PowerMAX®)	Feb/Mar	0.03	76.36	\$2.50	1.20 L	\$8.67/L	\$10.40	\$12.90
Weed control eg: 2,4-D amine 300 g/L (Surpass®)	Feb/Mar	with above			1.00 L	\$3.80/L	\$3.80	\$3.80
Weed control eg: glyphosate 540 g/L (Roundup PowerMAX®)	Apr	0.03	76.36	\$2.50	1.00 L	\$8.67/L	\$8.67	\$11.17
Sowing - treated seed	Apr/May	0.12	104.36	\$12.22	3.00 kg	\$14.50/kg	\$43.50	\$55.72
Nitrogen and Sulfur fertiliser (eg: Extra Sul®)	Apr/May	with above			100 kg	\$0.90/kg	\$90.00	\$90.00
Starter fertiliser eg: MAP	Apr/May	with above			100 kg	\$1.03/kg	\$103.00	\$103.00
Mite control eg: omethoate 290 g/L (Le-mat®)	May	0.03	76.36	\$2.50	0.10 L	\$30.00/L	\$3.00	\$5.50
Grass weed control eg: haloxyfop-R 520 g/L (Verdict®)	Jul	0.03	76.36	\$2.50	0.075 L	\$61.09/L	\$4.58	\$7.08
Broadleaf weed control eg: clopyralid (Lontrel®)	Jul	with above			0.30 L	\$32.86/L	\$9.86	\$9.86
Heliothis control eg: alpha-cypermethrin (Fastac Duo®)	Sept	contract		\$18.15	0.30 L	\$8.07/L	\$2.42	\$20.57
Aphid control (1 year in 2) eg: pirimicarb (Pirimor WG®)	Sept	contract		\$18.15	0.5 kg	\$43.80/kg	\$21.90	\$20.03
Contract Windrow	Oct	contract		\$75.00				\$75.00
Contract-Harvest	Nov			\$50.00				\$50.00
Crop Levies						\$1.50/tonne + 1.02% of on-farm value		\$9.87
Crop Insurance						1.74% of on-farm value		\$12.82

*** Input and crop prices are correct at the time of writing (March 2012). Market uncertainty makes estimation of future pricing impractical.

Notes:	
Soil type:	- Suitable for all high fertility wheat soils. Avoid acid soils containing high aluminium.
Place in rotation	- Short Fallow: Fallow or weed free period of 5-6 months between harvest of one crop and sowing of the next crop. For example, wheat harvested in November would be under a 5-6 month fallow until sowing in the following May.
Sowing time:	- Sow on the first sufficient rains after mid-April (10% yield loss/week after early May). - Seed price used above is for purchased seed. Do not use retained Canola seed.
Fertiliser:	- Canola needs 30% more nitrogen than wheat. The majority of nitrogen should be applied at sowing. Avoid applying high levels of nitrogen in direct contact with the seed. - A fertiliser with sulfur such as Extra Sul and Starter 15, or gypsum should also be used.
Weed control:	- Timing of fallow herbicide applications will vary according to rainfall. - An additional knockdown herbicide application (eg. glyphosate 540 g/L @ 1.0 L/ha) should be considered if weeds are present at the time of sowing. - There are 4 herbicide tolerant canola groups: conventional, triazine tolerant (TT), imidazolinone tolerant (CLEARFIELD®) and Roundup Ready®. This budget is for conventional canola and should be adjusted for your own herbicide strategy. - Conventional canola: Clopyralid for capeweed, skeleton weed and saffron thistle control. - Verdict® for grass weeds unless high levels of wireweed or fumitory are likely; use trifluralin if this is the case.
Insect control:	- Earthmite control is essential in most years. - Aphids need to be monitored from early budding. When colonies begin to spread control may be needed. - Monitor for heliothis from flowering onwards.
Windrowing:	- Windrowing is strongly recommended to reduce shattering losses and allow earlier harvest.
Machinery:	- A tractor with 196 kW (263 HP) pto power and 242kW (325 HP) engine power is assumed. - Machinery costs refer only to variable costs: fuel, oil, filters, tyres, batteries & repairs.
Labour:	- Contract-harvesting does not include the cost of fuel. - The labour required for machinery operations is 0.23 hr/ha
Important notes:	- Using a labour cost of \$22/hr, an additional \$5.02 can be deducted from the budget - These gross margins are only a guide. They do not include overhead costs. - Use your own figures and price assumptions to estimate your own gross margin. - Use of a particular brand name does NOT imply a recommendation of that brand by NSW DPI.