

# COULD CAMELINA BE A SOURCE OF INCOME IN DROUGHT YEARS WITH LITTLE OR NO IRRIGATION?

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## Introduction

Camelina is an oil seed crop of the mustard family. It is adapted to cold semi-arid plains and steppe environments. Camelina seed is a source of omega-3 fatty acids, cooking oil, animal protein supplements, and is an alternative jet fuel source. It can be planted in the fall or very early spring. Camelina is planted at low seeding rates at a shallow soil depth. It has low nitrogen and irrigation water requirements.



*Figure 1. Camelina harvest at the Oregon State University Malheur Experiment Station, Ontario, Oregon, 2014.*

## Materials and Methods

The 'Calena' variety of Camelina was planted at 5 lb/acre on November 27, 2013 into dry soil following wheat. Three rows 7 inches apart were planted on the soil surface and pressed into the soil with press wheels on top of 30-inch beds. The wheat stubble had received 50-100-0 of nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium, had been irrigated, and worked into the soil during summer.

There was no further fertilization and no further irrigation. Poast<sup>®</sup> herbicide at 1.5 pt/acre plus surfactant was applied March 18 and April 25 to control the volunteer wheat. The camelina was harvested at the end of June and the beginning of July (Fig 1).

## **Results and Discussion**

There was only 5.69 inches of precipitation from planting in November 2013 through harvest. Prolonged snow cover aided seed emergence in February. Camelina yielded 1,590 lb seed/acre. Camelina has the potential to make a small marketable crop with minimal inputs.

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