Getting the seeds out of the field and in the tank Ramdeo Seepaul, Ian Small, Sheeja George, David Wright

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Harvest Management

- Optimise seed quality and yield
- Minimise harvest loss
- Combine optimization and proper handling
- Timely planting of subsequent crops in double-cropped systems
- Use of desiccants to advance maturation
- Manage green tissue and weeds to improve harvest efficiency



Harvest timing (days after physiological maturity)

Seed and stem dry down





Desiccants vs. swathing





Desiccants vs. swathing



2015



Defining Physiological Maturity

Staging carinata for chemical desiccation



- The crop must be physiologically mature before harvest aids are applied.
- Carinata seed is physiologically mature when the seed color changes from green to light green.
- A harvest aid can be applied when >70% of the seeds are physiologically mature. At this time, the upper branches and pods will be brown, however, the main stem may remain slightly green.

Systemic vs. Contact Desiccants

- Harvest aid
 - two contact desiccants:
 - diquat dibromide (Reglone) and paraquat (Parazone)
 - two Systemic desiccants:
 - saflufenacil (Sharpen) and glyphosate (Roundup)
- Application rate
 - 1X and 2X the label rate
- Application timing
 - 7, 14, 21, and 28 days post physiological maturity (DAPM)
- Responses: seed, stem, pod moisture, yield, seed quality



Seed moisture content of non-treated carinata



- For commercial delivery, carinata has to be 10% seed moisture.
- In Year 1, seed moisture (SM) reduced from 50 to 8% while in Year 2, SM declined from 58 to 14% during the 28 day dry down period

Seed moisture 1 week after systemic HA application



- Seed moisture of carinata treated with systemic HA was similar to nontreated carinata in both years
- Systemic HA may require longer periods of activity to effectively reduce seed moisture

Seed moisture 1 week after contact HA application



- Relative to the control, Reglone and Parazone reduced seed moisture at 7, 14, and 21 DAPM in Year 1 but only at 14 DAPM in Year 2
- At 14 DAPM, SM was 18 and 17 percentage points lower than control in Years 1 and 2
- At 28 DAPM, SM was similar regardless of harvest aid in both years
- Stems treated with contact HA were drier than control or systemic HA treated carinata, may improve harvest ease.
- Similar to systemic HA, application of contact HA may require longer duration to be effectively reduce SM to <10%.

Seed moisture 2 weeks after systemic HA application



- Two weeks after application, contact HA reduced SM at 7 and 14 DAPM. At 21 DAPM and beyond, SM was similar to the control
- Systemic HA did not have an effect on SM content 2 weeks after application.

Carinata oil content on whole seed basis



- 12.3 percentage point increase in oil from 0 to 21 DAPM in nontreated carinata
- Maximum oil content occurred 21 DAPM regardless of harvest aid

Carinata protein content on whole seed basis



- Protein varied only with sampling time and not harvest aid, rate or source
- Protein is inversely related to oil content
- Protein was similar (22%) at 14, 21 and 28 DAPM

Harvest aid effects on carinata seed yield



- Contact HA did not reduce yield at 21 and 28 DAPM
- At 21 DAPM, systemic HA reduced yield by 16%. Yields were similar to control at 28 DAPM

Systemic HA did not have an effect on yield at 21 or **28 DAPM**

at 21 DAPM, respectively

Refining Harvest Aid Recommendations

Desiccants:

- i. Diquat Dibromide (Reglone) 24 oz/ac (contact)
- ii. Flumioxazin (Valor) 4 oz/ac (contact)
- iii. Glufosinate (Liberty) 29 oz/ac (contact)
- iv. Saflufenacil/Diquat (Sharpen/Reglone) 1.5/24 oz/ac
- v. Saflufenacil/Paraquat (Sharpen/Helmquat) 1.5/1.6 oz/ac
- Days after physiological maturity: 21 (133 DAP) and 28 (140 DAP)

Control Stem: 57% MC Pod: 22% MC Seed: 10% MC Reglone Stem: 28% MC Pod: 7% MC Seed: 5% MC

Control Stem: 38% MC Pod: 10% MC Seed: 5% MC

28 DAPM

Reglone Stem: 23% MC Pod: 9.5% MC Seed: 5% MC

Reduction in seed moisture



Efficacy of desiccants in reducing seed moisture content relative to control (percentage points)

Chemical	21 DAPM	28 DAPM
Liberty	5	ns
Reglone	6	ns
Sharpen/Helmquat	6	ns
Sharpen/Reglone	6	ns
Valor	ns	ns

Harvest aid

Reduction in pod canopy moisture



Harvest aid

Reduction in stem moisture



Efficacy of desiccants in reducing stem moisture content relative to control (percentage points)

Chemical	21 DAPM	28 DAPM
Liberty	ns	ns
Reglone	29	15
Sharpen/Helmquat	14	7
Sharpen/Reglone	28	13
Valor	ns	ns

Harvest aid

Seed yield



 Yield averaged 2842 and 2441 kg ha⁻¹ at 21 and 28 DAPM respectively

 16% yield reduction at 28 DAPM related to higher shattering loss at harvest

Harvest aid

How to minimise harvest losses?

- Application timing of harvest aid should be optimized to minimize loss of seed yield
- The weather forecast and condition of the crop are important factors to consider when applying harvest aids
- Harvest aids will need about 7 10 days to be effective. Plan on harvesting as soon as the seed moisture is 10% or less. Seeds will deteriorate if allowed several cycles of wetting and drying
- Use the machine settings for rapeseed outlined in the operator's manual. Settings will have to be adjusted and fine-tuned depending on crop moisture and harvest conditions. It is essential to have the proper screens and combine settings to reduce dockage and loss of seed
- Check periodically for seed loss behind the combine and adjust settings if necessary for optimized harvest

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