Table 2. Production economics of canola and wheat.

	Canola[1]	Wheat[1]
Grain yield, bu/A	47.0	44.6
Market price, $/bu	4.75	3.00
Total prod. cost $/A	159	154
Gross income, $/A	223	134
Unit prod. cost, $/bu	3.38	3.46
Net profit, $/A	64	(-20)

[1]Canola average from three production centers, wheat average from two production centers in Georgia, 1992/93 growing season.

The major insect pests are aphids and cabbage seedpod weevil. Nematodes such as root knot can sometimes contribute to early stand loss. Healthy, well-nourished plants have the highest tolerance to such stress and can recover more quickly from injury by insects.

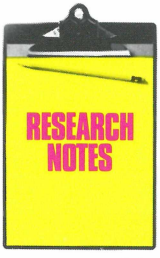
The soilborne diseases such as *Rhizoctonia solani* can sometimes cause damping-off problems when canola is planted after peanuts. Powdery mildew, *Sclerotinia* and *Alternaria* can also be a problem. Use only certified seed which is treated for seedborne diseases.

Summary

Canola production is expected to increase dramatically in the Southeast. There are several reasons for this view. Profitability of canola continues to be favorable and can improve with marketing and production experience. Equipment needs for canola and wheat are similar. Both crops have good fit into existing cropping systems. Consumer demand for canola oil continues to increase and now represents oil production from about 1.5 million acres. U.S. farmers produce less than one out of each five acres of canola needed in this country. New food labeling laws favor canola as a low saturated fat vegetable cooking oil. These reasons illustrate that increased strength exists not only in production but also in marketing and utilization of canola to supply consumer needs.

As farmers search for alternative crops with realistic profit potential, canola deserves an evaluation for best fit into the crop production system. Persons interested in furthering their knowledge of canola production should contact their local Extension specialist. A copy of the Proceedings of the First International Canola Conference (1990) may be obtained by contacting PPI Circulation Department, 655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110, Norcross, GA 30092-2821. Cost is $15.00. ■

Alabama



Cotton Root Growth as Affected by Phosphorus Fertilizer Placement

GROWTH chamber studies were conducted to determine how cotton root growth is affected by the proportion of soil volume treated by fertilizer phosphorus (P). Cotton was grown in pots, using two soils: Dewey silty clay loam (low P) and Marvyn loamy sand (high P). Phosphorus was added at a constant base rate, but mixed with decreasing proportions of soil volume: 1.0, 0.5, 0.25 and 0.125.

Results showed that P uptake and root growth of cotton seedlings are affected by P placement. When a constant rate of P was applied per pot, P uptake by cotton shoots reached a maximum when 0.25 and 0.50 of the soil volume was treated with P on the Marvyn and Dewey soils, respectively. Root growth was also stimulated by fertilizer P, the degree of stimulation being similar for both soils. ■

Source: Mullins, G.L. 1993. *Fertilizer Research* 34: 23-26