



Canada's

Agriculture, Food and Beverage INDUSTRY

Canada's Mustard Seed Industry

Canada is the world's largest exporter of mustard seed and among the top five producers in the world. More than half of mustard seed produced in Canada is destined for export. Mustard seed is used primarily in the condiment and food industries, in the form of either seed or oil.



Canada produces three types of mustard: yellow, brown and oriental. Seed yields of brown and oriental mustard are typically higher than yellow mustard. Brown and oriental mustard seed are hot and spicy. Yellow is the mildest of the three varieties and has lower oil content. Oriental mustard seed is often used to produce spicy cooking oils, while brown mustard is used to prepare

specialty mustards, such as Dijon. Mustard seed can also be milled into mustard flour and used as an ingredient in processed foods, such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, soups and processed meats.

A relative of canola, mustard seed has the advantage of being more tolerant to drought, heat and frost. It is an annual, cool-season crop that can be grown in a short growing season, commonly in rotation with cereal grains.

To date, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has undertaken the majority of mustard seed research in Canada. However, recently the industry has agreed on a levy that will support research projects. Over the last fifteen years, research stations in Western Canada have consistently released improved varieties of this crop. Present day varieties of yellow and oriental mustard have characteristics that are specific to various segments of the marketplace. Current objectives for breeding include the further development of improved mustard seed varieties. These include better adaptation to the semi-arid soils and increases in yield, oil and protein content. Some varieties with low oil content have also been developed for a new canola-quality mustard plant that could, potentially, be cultivated in drier regions of Western Canada. Research priorities also include the health and nutritional benefits of mustard and new food and non-food applications such as the development of bio-products from mustard.

Additional Information

Western Canada has been a major producer of mustard seed since World War II, when supplies from Western Europe - the historic base of production - were disrupted. Canadian mustard seed production is concentrated in the Prairie provinces, particularly in Saskatchewan, where over 80 per cent of the domestic total is produced.



Quality

is in our **nature**

Canadian mustard seed production has fluctuated over recent years from a low of 105,000 tonnes in 2001 to a high of 306,000 tonnes in 2004. Although production declined in 2005 to 201,000 tonnes, exports increased nearly 8 percent from 114,300 in 2004 to 123,200 tonnes in 2005.

The United States is the largest export market for Canadian mustard seed. In 2005, nearly 46 per cent of Canadian exports were destined for the United States, followed by Belgium at 22 per cent and Japan at 7 per cent. Germany, the Netherlands and Thailand are also importers of Canadian mustard seed. Demand for yellow mustard seed in food processing is increasing in the United States, while northern Europe uses more of the brown mustard type for condiment use (Dijon mustard). In Asian countries, oriental mustard is used for cooking oil and for condiment use.

Demand for mustard seed is expected to grow during the next decade as world population and the use of spices increases. Canada's ability to meet this growing international demand, as well as continued research into new crop varieties, will contribute to Canada's continued success in the mustard seed industry.

For More Detailed Information

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Useful Links

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Special
Crops Section
www.agr.gc.ca/misb/spec/index_e.php?page=intro



Further information on products, suppliers and investment opportunities in the Canadian agri-food industry is available on the Agri-Food Trade Service Web site at: www.ats.agr.gc.ca

Canada's food and agricultural products reflect our dedication to excellence, and our deep commitment to safety, quality, environmental responsibility, innovation and service.

In every facet of our industry, we seek to earn the trust of our customers by answering their needs and exceeding their expectations. Those values along with our belief in building strong relationships, have given Canadian agriculture and food products an international reputation for excellence. Customers around the world know that they can trust the goodness of Canada.