Oilseed Flax as a Dryland Broadleaf Rotation in the Pacific Northwest

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Benefits of Oilseed Flax

• Can grow in dryland areas where not enough moisture for canola

• In-crop control of grassy weeds AND broadleaf weeds

• Same planting and harvesting equipment as wheat or grass seed
Challenges of Oilseed Flax

• Good stand establishment and adequate moisture at flowering are critical to yield
• Can be a challenge to clean seed in combine; 10% FM is not uncommon
• Straw requires management depending on timeline for succeeding crop
• Sensitive to sulfonylurea (SU) compounds with long residual time
Planting and Fertilization

- Fall planted, dormant seed planted or spring planted
- Conventional tillage or no-till
- 50 lbs planting seed per acre; 20 to 40 plants per square foot
- 40 lbs of N for 1,000 lb yield; 80 lbs of N for 2,000 lb yield
## Registered Chemicals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-emergent Weeds</th>
<th>Grassy Weeds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calisto</td>
<td>Select</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spartan 4F</td>
<td>Assure II</td>
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<tr>
<td>trifluralin</td>
<td>Poast</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desiccants</strong></td>
<td><strong>Broadleaf Weeds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Valor</td>
<td>Buctril</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharpen</td>
<td>MCPA</td>
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<td>Buctril M</td>
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<td>Curtail M</td>
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Harvest

- Late July / early August
- Direct cut; may require desiccant if late season moisture
- Limited shatter; easy threshing; commonly 10% FM in combine
- Straw will require management depending on succeeding crop
Marketing

- Several regional buyers
- Primary market is livestock feed
- Pricing generally $0.04/lb to $0.08/lb better than canola
References

- Flax Council of Canada, Growing Flax: Production, Management and Diagnostic Guide

- Oregon State University, Flax Guide, EM 8952-E, February 2008

- Pacific Northwest Handbook