

Plant cover and winter mortality of winter canola (*Brassica napus* L.) in Tennessee

Canola (*Brassica napus* L.) is a good source of edible oil, biodiesel and animal feed and is also a good cover crop and pollinator habitat. Due to increasing demand for canola, various new high yielding varieties are being released. These high yielding varieties need to be tested across U.S. to identify those that perform best in a particular ecoregion. Therefore, a study to compare winter canola varieties was conducted at the Tennessee State University Agricultural Research and Education Centre in Ashland City, TN. In September 2022, 37 varieties (11 open pollinated, 26 hybrid) were planted. Canopy cover and plant emergence were recorded during the last week of October. In March 2023, winter mortality of the plants was determined. The findings will identify the variety that provides the greatest canopy cover and lowest winter mortality to enhance yield and sustainability of winter canola.

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