SOWING CANOLA

WHEN IS IT TOO LATE?

Current situation:

- Wet conditions have delayed sowing opportunities or caused establishment failure
- Now past the optimum sowing (resowing) window for many canola varieties
- Growers considering- "Should I stick with canola?"

GOA, for the last 2 years, has been investigating options such as variety choice and plant populations to improve the performance of late sown canola in the context of a late season breaks.

Both seasons have had good moisture profiles at sowing and a favourable seasonal outlook. Not too dissimilar to the current situation!

Key findings from 4 trials over 2 years

Sowing canola early in its optimum window will give best yields

Respectable yields of 2-3 T/ha were still achieved with end of May/early June sowing in 2020 and 2021.
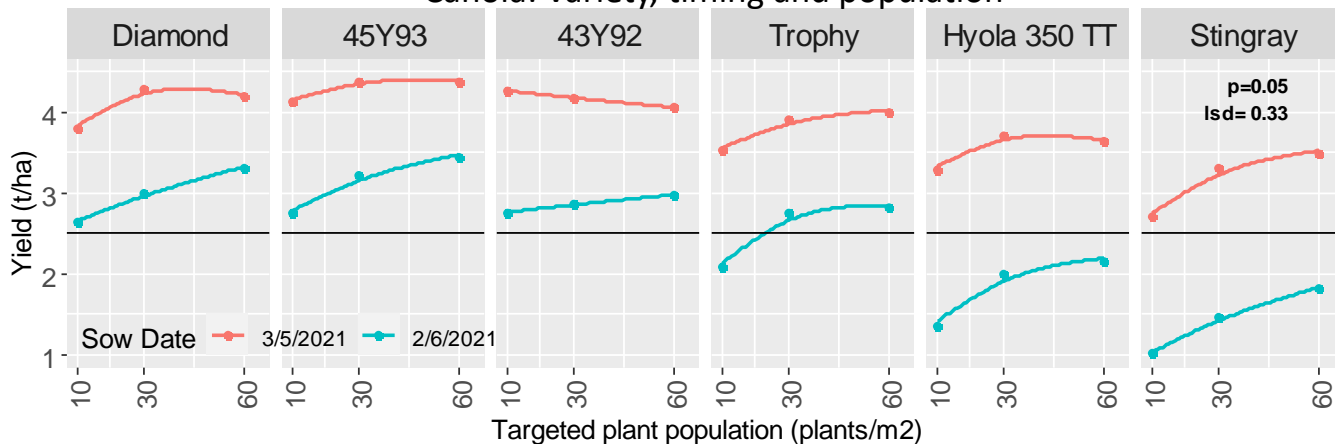
The better performing varieties performed strongly at both sowing dates, but the penalty of late sowing differed between varieties

Early sown canola has greater opportunity to maximise vegetative growth, at a later sowing time there is less opportunity, increasing sowing rates may compensate for this to some degree but it varies by variety. Generally later sowing benefited more from higher plant populations.

Lower plant population at an earlier sowing outperformed higher plant numbers with a later planting. This may be useful to consider if contemplating resowing paddocks with reduced emergence.
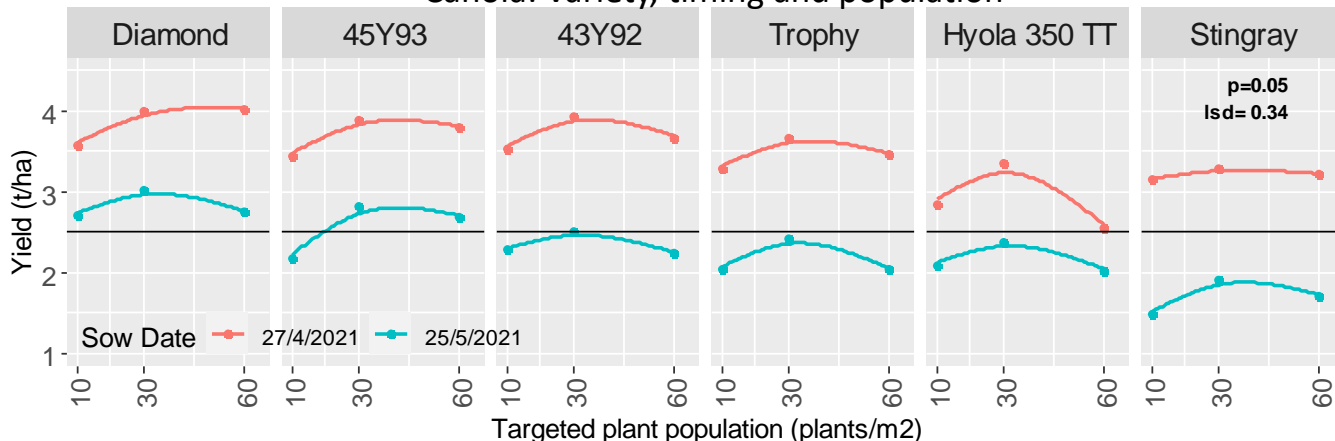
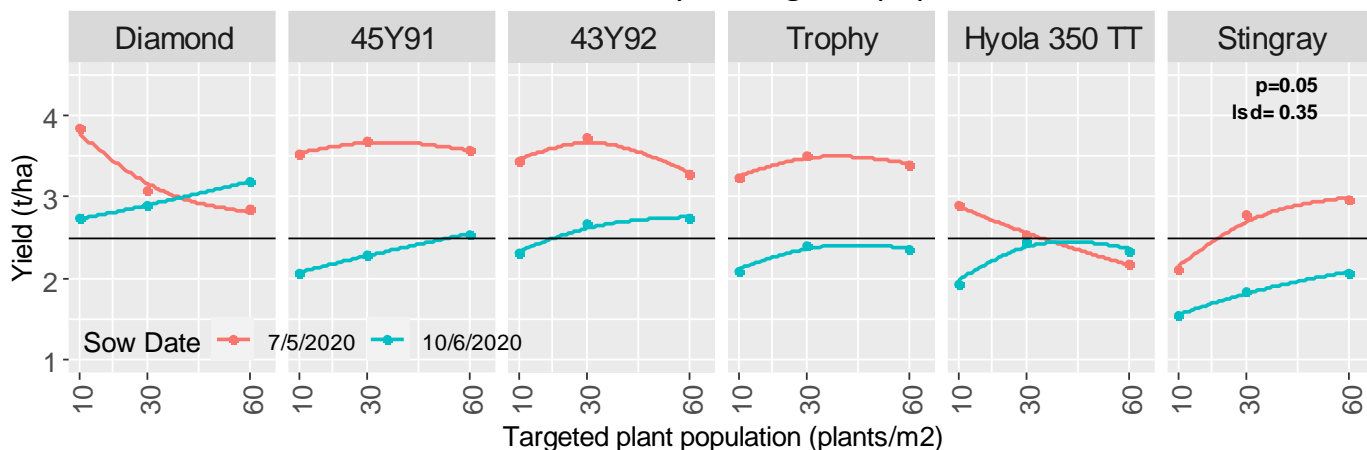### Canowindra 2021 — Canola: Variety, timing and population

Sow Date — 3/5/2021 — 2/6/2021

Warren 2021 — Canola: Variety, timing and population

Sow Date — 27/4/2021 — 25/5/2021

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Eugowra 2020 — Canola: Variety, timing and population

Diamond | 45Y91 | 43Y92 | Trophy | Hyola 350 TT | Stingray

p=0.05
lsd= 0.35

Yield (t/ha) vs Targeted plant population (plants/m2)

Sow Date — 7/5/2020 — 10/6/2020

Nyngan 2020 — Canola: Variety, timing and population

Diamond | 45Y91 | 43Y92 | Trophy | Hyola 350 TT | Stingray

p=0.05
lsd= 0.33

Yield (t/ha) vs Targeted plant population (plants/m2)

Sow Date — 28/4/2020 — 29/5/2020

Canola: Phosphorus rate and sowing timing

Some growers may be tempted to reduce P application based on a reduced yield potential and high fertiliser costs.

We found that the response to P was similar at both sowing timings (in a P responsive site). Maintain P rates where possible, particularly in low P paddocks.
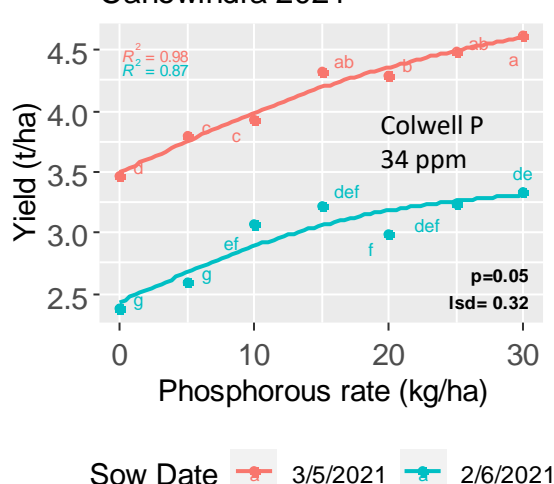
Considerations for sowing 2022

Having a full profile, a forecast LaNina and high grain prices should give growers confidence that sowing canola later than normal is a viable option. Even with the reduced yields associated with late sowing, growers should consider the profitability of alternate crops and maintenance or rotations

To get the best results:

- Choose a variety with higher vigour/yield potential i.e. hybrids
- Target robust plant populations (30 plants/m^2 or above)
- If P responsive paddock, use a similar amount of P as an earlier sowing

Canowindra 2021

$R^2 = 0.98$
$R^2 = 0.87$

Colwell P
34 ppm

p=0.05
lsd= 0.32

Yield (t/ha) vs Phosphorous rate (kg/ha)

Sow Date — 3/5/2021 — 2/6/2021

For further information

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