

# Canola vs. spring wheat in the 2010s

Canola yields continued to creep higher in Western Canada from 2010-15, but average yields hit a peak in 2016, reaching 42.3 bushels per acre. Drought in 2020-22 was a huge factor, but average yields appeared to hit a ceiling in the 2017-19 period, at around 41 bu. In comparison, spring wheat yields continued to climb throughout the 2010s.

Average canola yields in Alberta		Average spring wheat yields in Alberta		Average canola yields in Canada		Average spring wheat yields in Canada	
2010-12	37.3	2010-12	47 bu.	2009-11	34.3	2009-11	41.5
2019-22*	39.3	2019-22*	56.7	2019-22*	40.4	2019-22*	53.1
Increase: 5.4 percent, 0.54 annually		Increase: 19.8 percent, 1.98 percent annually		Increase: 17 percent, 1.7 percent annually		Increase: 28 percent, 2.8 percent annually	

\* Not including 2021 Sources: Canola Council of Canada, Statistics Canada

## Wheat outpaces canola in Saskatchewan



In the late 2000s, spring wheat yields were on average four bushels higher than canola. However, from 2018-22 the yield gap between spring wheat and canola was closer to 13 bu. per acre.

Risk Zone 17 (northeast)				
	2018	2019	2020	2022
InVigor L233P	53	53	44	52
AACBrandon	65	66	62	67
Average gap between Brandon and L233: 14.75 bu.				
Risk Zone 16 (west-central)				
	2018	2019	2020	2022
L233P	42	36	38	20.8
Brandon	48	47	53	34
Average gap between Brandon and L233P: 11.5 bu.				
Saskatchewan spring wheat and canola yields (average)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011
Canola	32	35	31	33
Spring wheat	36	38	35	39
Average yield gap: four bu.				

Sources: Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp.

## Canola acres exploded 15 years ago



Canola acres in Canada have been steady over the last decade, in the range of 21 to 23 million. However, an acreage boom occurred between 2006 and 2012 when canola acres increased by nine million, or nearly 70 percent:

Year	Acreage
2006	13.1 million
2007	15.7
2008	16.2
2009	16.5
2010	17.6
2011	19.0
2012	22.1

Most of the gains were in Saskatchewan, which added more than 5.5 million acres. To put the nine million-acre increase in context, Manitoba has about 9.8 million of acres of cropland. In 2014, the Canola Council of Canada set a national canola yield target of 52 bushels per acre. Reaching that target might have been possible if canola maintained its yield gains from the mid-2000s to the mid-2010s:

Average yield in Canada	
2004-06	30.5 bu.
2014-16	38.7
Increase: 27 percent, or 2.7 percent per year. If the 2.7 percent increase continued, average canola yields in 2025 would be 49.1 bu.	

Source: Canola Council of Canada | WP GRAPHIC

