

# 11 Agronomic Guidelines for Straight Cutting Canola with Pod Ceal DC™



The following are some key steps to consider when straight cutting your canola. This decision and process should start before planting, to give you the maximum return on your investment.

## 1 SETTING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Pod Ceal DC and Direct Cutting are management tools to help increase your profits. They are not silver bullets and need some careful consideration and management to reach their optimum potential.

## 2 VARIETY SELECTION

Choosing a variety that will give you the best stand and knit together may help reduce pod loss. Growers have reported varying degrees of Pod Drop on different varieties. Currently we do not have enough data to make specific variety recommendations.

## 3 PLANT STAND

A high seeding rate and early weed control will give you a heavy, even stand. The maturity will be more even and there will be fewer green weeds and immature plants at harvest time.

## 4 APPLICATION TIMING

Flex Test – Pods will still bend and crack, not split and burst when bent 90 degrees. The seeds on the main stem will be about 40-50% color turn at this stage. The field will be turning from a dark green to a lime green color. This is the optimum time in the application window for Pod Ceal DC application.

## 5 WATER VOLUME

Maximum coverage ensures maximum effectiveness. 5 US Gal per acre by air, 20 US gal per acre for a ground rig. This volume of water can force its way to the bottom pods and wrap them in coverage as well.

## 6 TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE

Very hot temperatures during application can evaporate some water between sprayer and pod, decreasing coverage. A heavy dew or light rain do not affect Pod Ceal DC, they may even help coverage.

## 7 CHOOSING TO USE A DESICCANT

A desiccant such as glyphosate, applied at the same time as Pod Ceal may speed maturity and dry down of problem weeds. Quick acting contact desiccants work too fast. The purpose of Pod Ceal DC is to extend the harvest window and let the plants ripen naturally.

## 8 SWATHING VS. STRAIGHT CUTTING

If the conditions are favorable for delayed swathing, not straight cutting (thin stand, hail damage) make sure that you do not pass the point of no return. If delayed swathing is causing too much plant damage it is probably better to leave it stand and direct harvest the crop. If you must swath, try to do it when moisture conditions will help reduce pod loss (dew, light rain).

## 9 HEADER TYPE

All header types have been shown to be usable for straight cutting. Managing and adjusting your header angles to suit your crop must be done to suit your crop conditions. Tilting the table forward may help feeding. Pushing the reel (bat or finger) far forward, keeping the rotations slow has been shown to help. If you have a Pea auger on your header, it may help to turn this on.

## 10 HARVEST MONITORING

A good way to collect a canola sample in a standing field is to perform a bag test. Strip pods from 15-20 plants from around the field and put them into a bag or pouch. Rough up the bag to break open the pods. Remove the straw and chaff to collect your canola sample.

## 11 HARVEST TIMING

When the canola is 10% moisture, it's time to harvest! Standing Canola should be your top priority when it is ready. The pods may feel tough, and the stalks will probably show some green. This is the optimum time to harvest your canola, when the seeds are ready, not when the plant is dry. Dry plants can lose more seed to shatter and pod drop. Very dry canola will have a greater chance of shattering, and does not feed as well into the header.

