Hemp Fibre and Grain Variety Trial

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Background and Objectives

Hemp is remarkably versatile, capable of producing large yields of both fibre and grain. Varieties grown primarily for fibre are typically taller than grain varieties, although dual-purpose varieties are also available.

Recent changes to legislation around hemp production are designed to simplify the process for growers. For a detailed list of those changes, see the Health Canada Notice to Industry, Section 56 Class Exemption in Relation to the Industrial Hemp Regulations (Health Canada 2016). It is expected that changes will enhance the industry's production and market development goals (Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance 2016).

A new company, Hemp Sense, will be setting up a hemp fibre processing plant in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. The plant will buy fibre left after the grain harvest, and will process hemp grain. Contact Hemp Sense Inc at info@hempsense.net for details.

The present study was planned to evaluate different varieties of hemp for fibre and grain quality.

Materials and Methods

Varieties: 12, Replications: 4, Plot size: 8.22 m^2

Test design: Randomized Complete Block Design

Seeding date: May 17

Fertilizer applied: 27 lbs/acre of P, 100 lbs/acre of N, 15 lbs/acre of S

Pesticide applied: Roundup WeatherMax @ 0.5L/acre pre-plant

Results

Unfortunately, birds damaged the plots before grain harvesting.

Project findings

Hemp varietal evaluation will be continued in 2017.

References

Health Canada (2016). Notice to industry regarding *Section 56 Class Exemption in Relation to the Industrial Hemp Regulations.* http://files.constantcontact.com/c90c7f21401/15d47c8d-1dde-48b9-8012-ece14544f9a3.pdf (accessed December 20, 2016).

Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance (2016). CHTA AGM president's report. November 14, 2016, Saskatoon, SK.