



Faba Bean Variety Report 2015/16

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Faba bean acreage continued to grow in 2015, rising to approximately 62,000 acres in Saskatchewan from 19,000 in 2014 and 8,500 acres in 2013.

At the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre (CDC), the faba bean breeding program started on a small scale about 10 years ago with two major streams for potential markets. The first was the large-seeded tannin types (colored flowers) for the food market, with emphasis on high yields with quality acceptable in the Nile Valley markets of Egypt and Sudan.

The second stream is a very early small-seeded, zero-tannin type (white-flowered) for the cool, wet regions of Saskatchewan and Alberta for use in flexible farming systems that include livestock (hogs) and protein extraction. These small faba beans are less expensive to grow because of lower seeding volumes compared to larger seeded types, they do not require specialized seeding or harvesting equipment, they leave stubble unlike pea and lentils, they fix the highest amount of nitrogen compared to other pulse crops, and they provide animal feed in the form of silage or grain with 30 per cent protein for feed or fractionation.

The CDC has been incorporating zero tannin faba beans and the low vicine/convicine gene into breeding lines. One of the goals is to bring the seed size down to that of a large pea without losing yield potential. The CDC's data consistently shows that tannin types are hardier, so they also have a breeding stream of conventional tannin, small, round-seeded types that will eventually shift to low vicine. The new varieties under evaluation look promising but will take at least four to five years before they will be commercially available.

Globe Seeds Netherland, NPZ-Lembke, and Limagrain Dederland plant breeding companies are also in the Saskatchewan marketplace with their varieties Imposa, Tobasco, and Snowbird in the feed market, and Taboar and Florent in the food market.

The most common varieties grown in Saskatchewan in 2015 were the smaller seeded low-tannin varieties Snowbird and CDC Snowdrop. Within the tannin varieties, the large seeded FB9-4 was most widely grown in 2015 followed closely by Taboar and then Florent. CDC SSNS-1 is a small seeded tannin type that is also grown in Saskatchewan and is well suited for green manure or use in silage mixtures.





Table 1: Previously Released Varieties Long Term Averages (SK)

Variety	Years Tested	Yield (% CDC Fatima)	Maturing Rating (Days)	Seed Weight (g/1000 seeds)	Breeding Institution	Distributor
Tannin Types (Coloured Flowers)						
CDC Fatima	9	100	105	520	U of S – CDC	Legumex-Walker Inc.
Taboar [^]	4	96	107	480	Globe Seeds Netherland	Terramax
CDC Blitz	6	101	109	410	U of S – CDC	Redview Farms
Florent	4	112	107	660	NPZ	DL Seeds Inc.
FB9-4	6	96	104	680	U of S – CDC	AGT Food and Ingredients Inc.
CDC SSNS-1	9	91	105	335	U of S – CDC	Meier Brothers
Zero-Tannin Types (White Flowers)						
Snowbird [^]	9	104	104	495	Limagrain Netherland	Bob Park – Lacombe, AB
Imposa [^]	4	110	107	695	Limagrain Netherland	Cyre Seed Farms
CDC Snowdrop	6	91	104	335	U of S – CDC	SPG
Tobasco [^]	5	101	106	530	DL Seeds Inc.	Ridell Seed Co.

[^] Variety protected by Plant Breeders Rights

Source: Adapted from *Variety of Grain Crops 2015* published by Government of Saskatchewan.

Note: Maturity ratings are based on days until swathing, but will vary depending on seeding date.