

Sulphur Deficiency In Canola

Sulphur deficiency in canola has been confined primarily to the western provinces. Test plots in Ontario have rarely shown any response to applied sulphur, it is believed that the amount of acid we receive in our rain provides our crop requirements. However several winter canola fields are showing signs of what appears to be deficiency of sulphur.

The plants are unthrifty, pale yellow flowers and cusped leaves. The problem may be fields high in residual N have a nitrogen sulphur ratio out of sync. Brian Hall and Keith Reid, OMAF crop specialists, are researching the characteristics of these particular fields. We hope for answers prior to planting winter canola this fall.

Some agronomists are suggesting farmers do sulphur trials on their spring canola (it's too late for winter canola). However caution must be taken to ensure the sulphur product used is safe for canola as some formulations can burn the crop. Most of these licensed products are foliar sprays, which need to be applied prior to stem elongation. Check with your agronomist

The Ontario Canola Growers Association