



Storage of Canola

The majority of Ontario canola is sold without being stored long term. Canola is susceptible to heating, requiring extra care in handling and storage. Heating in storage results in 'heat damage seed' that has higher free fatty acids and rancidity problems. High free fatty acids in canola are a problem for crushers, and can cause loads to be rejected. If you are a position where you might be storing canola for a period, some points to keep in mind:

- Canola harvested above 8% moisture will require some conditioning. Conditioning cools the canola and/or lowers its moisture content. Dockage in canola is typically 3 – 4% higher in moisture. Canola can maintain a high respiration (sweating) rate for up to 6 weeks following harvest before becoming dormant. Under western Canada conditions, canola can be safely stored at 8 to 9%, provided temperatures are below 20⁰ C.
- Canola is more prone to deterioration in storage than cereals because of its high oil content. At 70% relative humidity the safe storage moisture is 8.3% for canola and 13.9% for wheat at 25⁰ C for long term storage. Seed over 10% moisture should be dried within 1-2 weeks to avoid spoilage. Moulds can develop in canola within 11 days at 10.6% moisture at 25⁰ C.
- The rate at which canola deteriorates in storage depends on storage temperature, relative humidity, seed moisture content, the storage time and initial seed quality (green seed, dockage, etc)
- The relative storage potential falls, as the quality of freshly harvested canola decreases. Weathering of ripe canola, either standing or in the swath, accelerates deterioration following harvest. If crushed canola seed has a rancid odour, weathering and loss in quality has occurred. The presence of dull grey and brown seed coat colour indicates some weathering has occurred.
- Aeration fans designed to condition cereals, and other grains may not be adequate for canola, because of its small seed size. It takes more than twice as long to move a cooling front through canola as wheat.

For further information on Drying, handling, and storage of canola refer to the infosheet 'Storage of Canola' on the Alberta Agriculture website @

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop1301](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop1301)