

# Camelina

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*C. sativa.* (Brassicaceae)

## Fast facts:

Acres in Washington: 100 Number of Growers: less than 10
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## Description

### Of crop:

Camelina is a member of the mustard family. It is an annual or an over wintering herb that has branched smooth or hairy stems that become woody at maturity. It is known more as a weed with names like “false flax”, “gold of pleasure” and “leindotter”. The leaves are arrow shaped and the seeds are borne in pear shaped capsules that are orange to brown in color. They result from self-pollination although they can be cross -pollinated by visiting insects. Camelina produces a small oilseed that contains high levels of omega 3, which is believed to reduce heart disease, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. This could increase its potential in the health-food industry. After the seeds are crushed, the leftover meal can be used in feed for cattle, chickens and even fish. Camelina grows in arid conditions and doesn’t require extensive fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. It can be grown in marginal areas where soybeans can’t grow and requires little water. It can also produce more oil from its seed than other crops such as canola by almost half the price. This has lead to an interest in it as a potential source of biodiesel. In some areas, legislators are trying to extend renewable energy tax credits to camelina growers. In Washington, a Puget Sound biotech firm hopes to produce 1 million acres of camelina in the Northwest by 2009.

### Key pests:

Weeds are the main pests in camelina since they will overtake the plant. The main pest is milkweed. Insects and diseases have not been a problem to date.

### Key pesticides:

Since camelina is a relatively new crop, it is hard to find approved chemicals to fight weeds. Hand weeding is necessary.

### Critical pest

### Control issues:

There are currently no approved herbicides registered for camelina. Further research on which herbicides the crop will tolerate is needed.

### Expert Sources:

