

A close-up photograph of a camelina plant, showing numerous small, round, light-brown seed pods on thin, reddish-brown stems. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the texture and detail of the plant.

SPEC CAMELINA

CV. ALMA

**QUINOA QUALITY APS
TEGLVÆRKSVEJ 10
DK-4420 REGSTRUP**

CVR 40610588

INFO@QUINOAQUALITY.COM

+45-26859506

WWW.QUINOAQUALITY.COM

Description of the crop

Camelina sativa has a great adaptability and a high quality of its dietary oil. It is one of the oldest oil-protein crops ever cultivated and used by humans in Europe, with evidence already from the New Stone Age, 10000 year BC.

Historically considered as a weed, only in the beginning of the 20th Century it started to gain a certain importance among the European population as a dietary oil and for medicinal purposes, as well as in the production of paints and lubricant oils.

Camelina has been grown in Europe and Russia until the 1950s, but the interest dropped after the spread of oilseed rape and the scarce knowledge of camelina oil quality. Farm subsidy programs have benefitted major grains and oil crops.

Not many efforts have been made so far towards its breeding, since camelina is already well-adapted to many different soils and microclimates, ranging from Atlantic to North Mediterranean areas. Camelina is mostly autogamous and this trait has been reinforced by human selection.



Technical specs

Seed weight, mg	Seed colour	Flower colour	Growth duration, days	Packaging	Storage
1.0	Orange	Yellow	120	10 kg	Cool and dry

Nutritional value

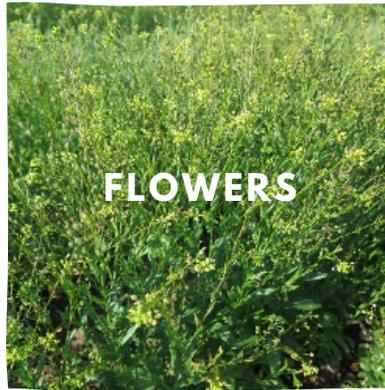
Seed contains ca. 40% oil and 28% protein. Oil quality is very high due to the high content of α -Linolenic acid (an Omega-3 fatty acid), 90% unsaturated fatty acids.

Cultivation instruction

Climate zone	Europe (n to s), Asia
Establishment	Clean, humid seedbed
Sowing date	April-May
Row spacing	12-50 cm
Sowing rate	5 kg/ha
Diseases and pests	white blister (<i>Albugo candida</i>), downy mildew (<i>Peronospora parasitica</i>). No pests
Harvest	Direct combining
Yield	1-2.5 t/ha
Post harvest	Dry immediately after harvest, clean

Winter varieties

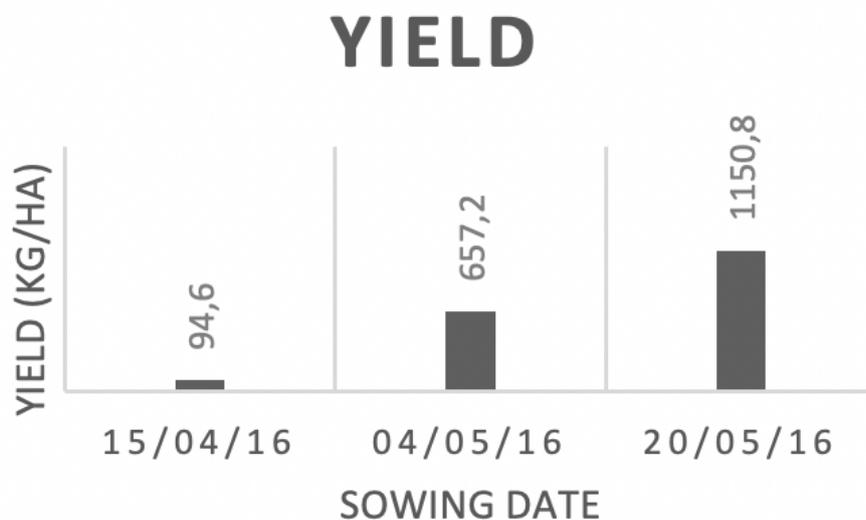
Sowing date	Mid September - Beginning of October
Harvest	before the end of July
Yield	3,3 t/ha



Weed control is normally not necessary, except for some early mechanical weeding. Camelina is sensitive to most herbicides. No pests have significant effect.

Camelina is a very good candidate for organic production, and a relevant alternative to oil seed rape.

In addition camelina can be used in intercropping systems, for instance to support lentil, or with oat, pea and other crops.



USES

Camelina oil is present worldwide in many foods, in addition to cosmetic products. There is increasing interest in its potential as low-cost raw material in the biofuel production as well as for the usefulness of the by-products derived from this process. Camelina presscake contains high level of nutrients which makes it a valuable ingredient in fodder mixtures. In Europe the camelina presscake feed use is admitted since 2008.

Camelina seeds can be consumed directly in salads, where they provide a pleasant taste, similar to its use in bread.

A renewed interest is rising around camelina both because of the attention that consumers are now placing in sources of poly-unsaturated fatty acids (among them, camelina is one of the most cost-effective). Following the renewed commercial interest in this crop, new studies are being carried out to confirm the positive health properties of camelina oil in liver detoxification.



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Jacobsen, S-E. 2020.
Camelina spec. From
www.quinoaquality.com, 5 p.