

Flax -- Organic Crop Production Program

Two production systems can be considered. One is companion planting and the other in direct seeding or drilling in the seed. The system will be determined by your production goal. For an on the farm supply of flax the companion planting should be consider. For marketing the flax for oil, the direct seeding, with or without the interseeding of red clover, is generally preferred

1- Companion planting flax and barley or spring wheat

Flax and barley or Flax and spring wheat

SEEDING RATE

½ bu/a Flax seed

1 ½ bu/a barley or spring wheat

treat seed with AER Myco Seed Treat

The companion planting will yield greater than any one crop alone. This program has been uses in Manitoba and some areas of North Dakota for 40 years

Projected yield

40-50 bu/acre barley

8-12 bu/acre Flax

2- Broadcast seeding flax

SEEDING RATE

1 bu Flax seed/a

treat seed with AER Myco Seed Treat

plant up to 1 ½ bu/ acre to reduce weed pressure

Interseeding red clover at planting has been found to suppress weeds

Flax Nutrient demands

Flax requirements

--Commercial flax growers consider adding 3# nitrogen/bushel yield. For organic production consider the Drammatic One, Chilean nitrate or the AER Organic 10 to meet the needs of nitrogen.

--Flax has a high demand for phosphorus. To meet that demand, treat the seed with mycorrhizal fungi (AER Myco Seed Treat) to enhance the uptake of phosphorus. The time when phosphorus deficiencies will show up is when the crop is three-four inches tall. Visually the crop appears to stall out. Generally it is a phosphorus deficiency that may be associated to cold conditions or soil deficiency phos.

A program that has worked for years to satisfy a phos decieny is a foliar feeding program when the crop appears to stall out (2-5 inch tall). The formula includes Drammatic E liquid fish. Flax responses well to the organic phosphorus in the fish.

Proposed program (This is a NOP program)

Preplant

1 gal	Dramm One
1 gal	AER SP-1
1 gal	Humic Acid
1 gal	molasses
2 qts	Organic trace mineral pack

10 days after emergence (3-5 inches tall)

Foliar	2 gal	Drammatic ONE
	2 qts	AER SP-1
	2 qts	Humic Acid
	4 gal	Chilean nitrate (optional)

R-1 stage- Early Bloom

Foliar	2 gal	Drammatic ONE
	2 qts	AER SP-1
	2 qts	Humic Acid
	4 gal	Chilean nitrate (optional)

For IFOAM production, do not use Chilean nitrate

Reg Destree, LaCrosse, WI Dec 20, 2005