



2013 Flax Weed Control Trial



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INTRODUCTION

Flax is a spring annual that is usually planted as early as the ground can be worked. One of the main challenges to successfully growing flax is weed control. Flax plants compete poorly with fast growing weeds due to its relatively short height (between 12 and 36 inches when mature) and tiny leaves. This trial was initiated to see if management, including different row spacing and cultivation, would affect weed densities in flax.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This trial was planted at Borderview Research Farm in Alburgh, VT on 19-Apr 2013. General plot management is listed in Table 1. The previous crop was spring wheat. The field was disked and spike tooth harrowed prior to planting. Plots were seeded with variety 'Rahab 94' at a seeding rate of 50 lbs acre⁻¹. The experimental design was a randomized complete block with four replications. Four weed control techniques were compared against a control of standard 6" row spacing and no cultivation (Table 2). The narrow row treatment was planted with a Kverneland grain drill at 4.5" row spacing. The wide row treatment was also planted with a Kverneland grain drill (by plugging every other hole in the hopper for 9" row spacing) and cultivated with a Schmotzer hoe on 4-Jun. The tine-weed treatment was planted with a Great Plains grain drill at 6" row spacing and tine-weeded on 4-Jun. The interseed treatment was planted with a Great

Table 2. Weed control techniques.

Treatment	Row spacing inches	Planter	Cultivation
Narrow row	4.5	Kverneland grain drill	none
Wide row with cultivation	9	Kverneland grain drill	Schmotzer hoe

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Two weed treatments in this study so poorly competed with weecweecwe

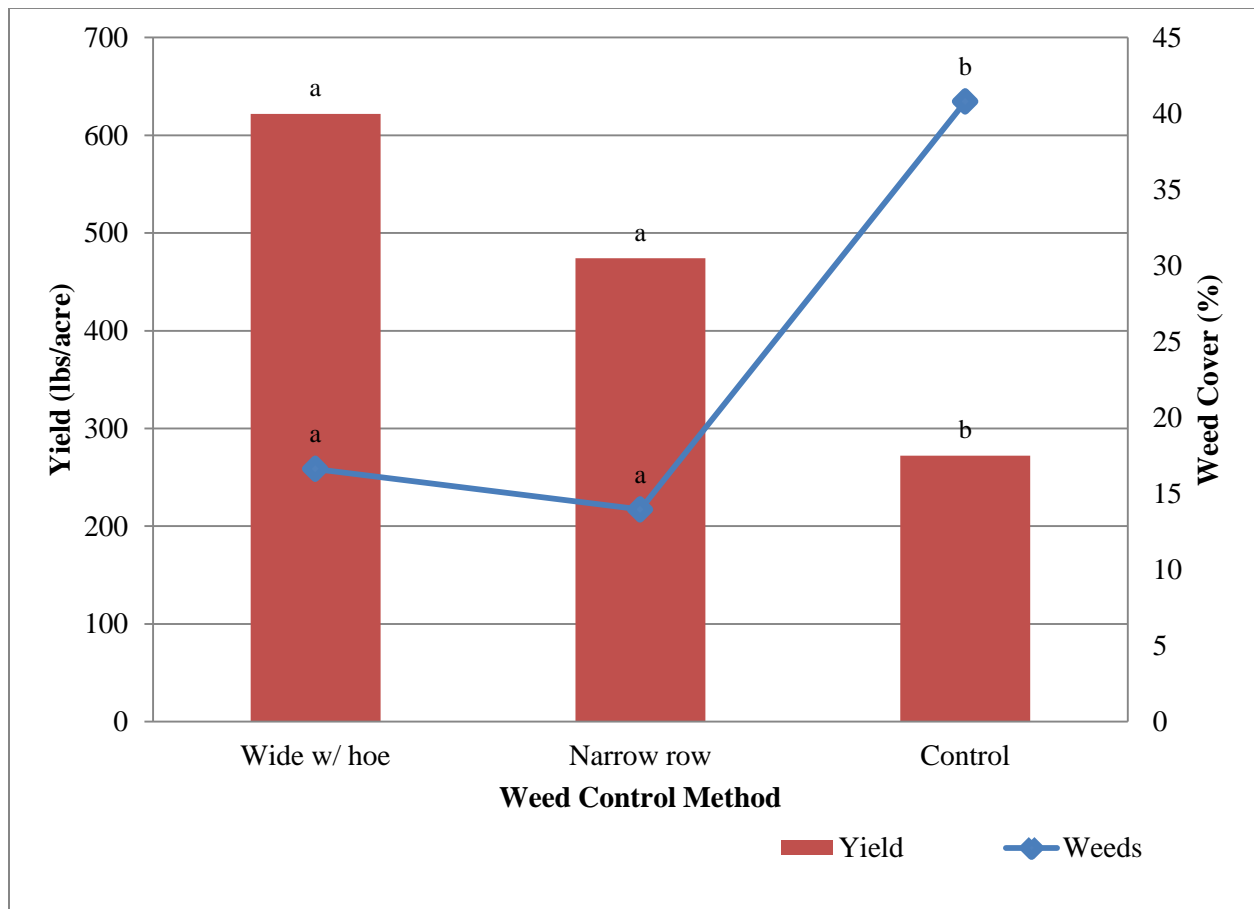


Figure 4. Yield (lbs/acre) and weed cover (%) of flax plots managed with different weed control techniques.

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