

## FINOLA Check List 2016

**FINOLA is primarily a grain crop**, not a fiber crop! Cultivate like rapeseed, with 10-20% more N.

**Field Selection:** Sow into warm ( $> 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), moist, well-drained areas that are rich in organic matter, pH 6.5. Clay, heavy, compacted soils and low, wet areas should be avoided. Avoid weed-infested fields. Avoid sowing FINOLA after other grain crops, if possible. Remember, FINOLA is an oilseed grain crop!

**Weed Management:** Minimize weed pressure in the autumn. Root crops, perennial forages and green manure plow downs are good fore crops. At least till and evenly harrow the field prior to sowing. A quick, even emergence followed by a rapid establishment of dense leaf canopy within the first month after sowing is essential for FINOLA to effectively compete with weeds.

**Seeding:** In May, sow or drill FINOLA 1 cm deep into moist, warm soil, and no deeper than 2 cm. Do not sow into dry soil. Most failures result by sowing too deeply, especially in poorly suited soils. Rolling may be helpful in areas that receive hard rains in May. Expect germination within 2-4 days and emergence within 4-7 days, depending on soil moisture and temperature. An optimal plant density of 100 plants/m<sup>2</sup> can be achieved by sowing about 25- 30 kg/Ha.

**Fertilization:** Fertilize FINOLA like rapeseed (Canola- *Brassica napus*) with 15% additional N. Conventional NPKS (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and sulfur) fertilization is recommended for FINOLA at the same levels required to grow rapeseed, for example NPK (23-3-6) at 295-330 kg/ha, plus an additional 10-20% N as urea or animal urine. Apply additional K and S wherever soils are deficient.

**Organic producers** are recommended to precede a FINOLA crop with a perennial breaking crop, clover or green manure plow down, with added urine and manure to increase nutrient availability for rapid initial growth. Reduce any weed pressure by plowing and harrowing prior to sowing. The seedbed must be as fine and even as possible. **Note!** Good soil, farming experience and proper nutrient levels are essential for successful organic oilseed hemp production. **Be sure to have enough nitrogen (N)!**

**Disease and Pest Management:** Harvest the grain before fields become infected with molds with autumn rains (100-120 days after sowing, depending on latitude and moisture conditions). Harvest soon after birds are seen in any FINOLA fields, as they spread disease while they eat the mature grain.

**THC Field Sampling:** The earliest typical sampling time begins about 40 days after sowing, and the latest possible sampling time can be no later than 60 days after sowing FINOLA, according to EU regulations. Near latitude 40° N, sampling times are at least one or two weeks earlier. Take samples earlier, if the crop is stressed by drought or weeds.

**Harvest:** Approximately 100-130 days after sowing, depending on latitude, FINOLA may be combined for grain while the crop is still “green” (70-90% seed head maturity), to minimize fiber strength and fiber wrapping problems during harvest. Harvest weather should be as dry as possible. An early harvest of good quality grain can be made after 100 days near 50° N and 120 days near 60° N. Harvest should begin soon after birds are noticed in the field, and no later than 130 days after sowing. Early harvest is encouraged if wet conditions are expected. FINOLA can be combining at 10-15% seed moisture during dry autumn days by cutting only the top third of the plant. Chop the stalk and leave it in the field.

**Drying and Cleaning:** Drying facilities must be nearby and ready to receive the harvested grain, especially in wet climates. SLOWLY dry hempseed to 8-9% moisture, immediately after harvest, at LOW temperatures (30-40 °C max) with HIGH volumes of airflow for 10-14 days. Faster drying temperatures can be used for lower quality grain (for paint oils or animal feed). Moisture should be checked with a calibrated meter. FINOLA grain may be cleaned with the following sieve sizes; 1.60- 3.25 mm oblong and 2.50- 5.00 mm round. A gravity table may be necessary to remove some weeds seeds.

**Storage-** Do not store the grain for any amount of time without initially drying to 9-10% moisture! Mold can ruin a good harvest within a few hours. Be sure that your drying facility is near by and available, and that your moisture meter is pre-calibrated for oilseed hemp. Store dry in grain bins or 500 kg tote bags, away from birds and rodents. Good quality hempseed should keep well for 2-3 years, if securely stored in a cool, dark and dry place. Low germination is always a sign of poor quality grain.