

10 Reasons Why FINOLA Fails: 20 Years of Experience

- 1) **Sowing at low latitudes.** FINOLA is an auto-flowering variety of hemp from Finland that matures rapidly. It requires warm summer days to be productive, and can be very short (about 1 meter) at latitudes below 40° N. It will need irrigation to get a good start in dry areas.
- 2) **Sowing too early.** There is no benefit to sowing early, unless there is a risk of drought. In southern Canada (lat. 50° N), for example, FINOLA is not sown before the first week of June. At lower latitudes, the beginning of May is possible if the fields are warm and moist.
- 3) **Sowing too deep.** FINOLA is an oilseed crop. It should not be cultivated like a fiber hemp crop. The correct sowing depth is 1-2 cm, not more.
- 4) **Sowing in clay, heavy or poorly drained soils.** Just don't do this!
- 5) **Sowing into dry soil.** FINOLA should not be sown into dry soils. It would be better to do nothing. Wait and sow into warm, moist soils.
- 6) **Sowing into soils with weed problems.** Just don't do this, either! Manage weeds before sowing by plowing and/or harrowing.
- 7) **Not enough nitrogen.** FINOLA needs nitrogen to grow, typically 10-15% more than rapeseed. Add about 10% of the total nitrogen as urea or animal urine at sowing time, to stimulate emergent growth. Establishing a good canopy in the beginning is essential for this crop.
- 8) **Rainy harvest.** Too much rain at harvest time will cause mold to grow on any crop. FINOLA is normally green at harvest time (100-120 days after sowing), when the stalk is still soft and easy to cut. Later, the fibers get hard, and this makes harvesting very difficult. Better to harvest early under dry conditions.
- 9) **Drying the harvest.** The FINOLA harvest must be dried within a few hours after harvest. Be sure that drying facilities are nearby and available. Dry at low temperatures (30-40 °C), with high volumes of air for 10-14 days. Next, do the first cleaning, and then dry the grain to 8-9% moisture for storage. Do not use higher temperatures to shorten the drying time. After the grain is dried, store in large (500 kg) bags. The storage area must be free of birds and rodents.
- 10) **Using grain as planting seed.** Some farmers have used their grain as planting seed. If grain is planted, then the crop is not FINOLA. Also, if the authorities ask, and you are unable to produce a valid C1 certificate for your crop, you may be charged with growing marijuana, and we cannot help you if this happens. We kindly ask you to respect the regulations for industrial crops.