

# EVALUATION OF NEW OIL SEED CROPS FOR BIOFUEL AND INDUSTRIAL FEEDSTOCKS

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The most common oilseed grown in CA is safflower and its production is well-understood. But interest in the use of oilseed crops for biodiesel and as alternative feedstocks for industrial chemical uses means that alternatives to safflower should be evaluated. Three fall-planted oilseed crops (Camellina, Canola and Lesquerella) will be compared in a trial at the Shafter REC. This trial will be funded in part through a proposed Sun Grant project in cooperation with researchers from the University of Arizona and the USDA-ARS research center at Maricopa, Arizona. Trials will include variety evaluations for each species, two dates of planting for lesquerella and camellina and one for canola, and evaluations of herbicide efficacy for lesquerella and camellina. Canola varieties will be Round-up tolerant. A second, similar trial will be carried out on the Davis campus. This trial is part of an anticipated two state effort between Arizona and California. It is dependent on the successful funding of a proposal recently submitted to the Sun Grant Program.