

FACTORS AFFECTING PRODUCTION OF SUNFLOWERS

By

Mr. Marvin Klevberg
National Sunflower Growers Association
Northwood, North Dakota

There are five major factors which are necessary to produce high yielding sunflowers in both oil and confection type. These factors are:

1. Seed bed preparation.
2. Selection of high quality seed.
3. Plant population.
4. Fertilization.
5. Weed control.

There is a definite need for more experimental fertilizer trials on sunflowers, for we as commercial operators are not satisfied that the existing information is giving us maximum yields.

Some of our association growers have run fertilizer trials using high rates of nitrogen and potash. These trials have shown tremendous results on low fertility soil, but have not been consistent on high fertility land. We as an association would also like to see more research testing in general on large commercial farms. We have several association growers who have offered acreage for this purpose to any one who will tabulate and issue information on the results of these trials. Growers are willing to assume all production costs.

Bee Research in the field of pollination is another area that should be expanded. Some of our commercial operators are using this system at present and are showing economic results; especially in oil type varieties.

Some of our growers are experiencing damage from bird infestation. This is another area where research is needed.

The National Sunflower Growers Association commends the research people as a world-wide research team for the commendable progress that has been made in these past years.

* * *