

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps one of the least recognized crops of Canadian origin are "pulses". When described by their common names, these crops are easily recognized (peas, beans, lentils, etc.), but, if the word "pulse" is used to describe the commodity, people generally have a very low response rate to the term. This fact has been borne out in various consumer studies, and can be verified by simply asking someone if they understand what "pulses" represent. Chances are that, if they have not had any direct exposure to "pulses", they will not know exactly what commodities the term represents. Therefore, a void exists in knowledge with respect to pulses, a void that will be partially filled by this publication.

A learned history professor once stated, "...you will never know where you are going, unless you know where you have come from." Adhering to this piece of wisdom would seem like the most logical step to better familiarize people about pulses. By beginning with the complete history of pulses, perhaps this publication will be able to better inform its readers with respect to an important crop to Canada. In addition to a brief history, this publication will attempt to address numerous other issues affecting pulses. Hopefully, anyone who reads this publication will be more informed about pulses, whether that be a small piece of information, or a wealth of knowledge. The publication is intended to act as a common reference source to be used by Canadian embassies abroad, in addition to the domestic pulse industry. With the publication representing all facets of the Canadian pulse industry, the dissemination of information should be made easier between the industry and Canadian posts abroad.