

Faba bean requires a long growing season, and has poor heat and drought tolerance, and thus is best suited to the Black soil zone of southern Manitoba, or irrigated areas. After the first substantial increase in production in Manitoba in 1972-73, the faba bean experienced crop failure problems due to the lack of adapted cultivars and lack of a suitable management system. The first cultivars were early maturing European cultivars, but since then, adapted cultivars and an excellent package of agronomic practices has been made available. The package includes early seeding and good herbicide selection. There are now 5 earlier, and better adapted Canadian cultivars available due to research efforts: Outlook (1981), Aladin (1981), Pegasus (1984), Encore (1985), and Orion (1987). Increased use of irrigation should help lead to increasing faba bean production in the future.

Dry pea has been produced in western Canada for over 80 years. Production in western Canada increased slowly during the 1970's, but experienced massive increases after 1985. These massive increases were largely the result of increases in acreage, primarily in Saskatchewan. After the wheat surpluses of the late 1960's, researchers at the Prairie Regional Laboratory and the National Research Council of Canada began to investigate potential alternative crops. Because it is an excellent protein crop, peas were selected in an attempt to substitute domestic production for expensive soybean meal being imported from the USA.

Researchers at the PRL developed methods for wet and dry processing of peas and a wide array of products were developed. Dry processing helped to create pea flour, pea starch, a 50% protein concentrate, in addition to the hulls being finely ground for use in a high fiber bread. The University of Saskatchewan and the PRL researched the potential value of pea meal and pea protein concentrate for use in such products as bread, desserts, a high protein beverage, and a new product "pea chips". In the future, research will proceed towards increasing the use of dry peas as livestock protein supplement, thereby eliminating imports of soybean meal from the USA. Agronomic practices have been developed which include seeding rate and date, inoculation, fertilization, chemical weed control, and harvesting methods. The yield potential of peas has increased recently through breeding programs at Agriculture Canada and the CDC at the University of Saskatchewan. Introduction of new pea cultivars has been progressing for the past three decades in Canada, as evidenced by the chart on the following page.