Registration of ‘Ericka’ Winter Rapeseed

‘Ericka’ winter rapeseed [Brassica napus L. subsp. oleifera (Metzg.) Sinskaya f. biennis] (Reg. no. CV-15, PI 597353) was developed for use as an edible oil-quality (canola) cultivar by the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station.

Ericka is a near pure-line winter rapeseed cultivar with canola-quality seed oil and canola-quality seed meal, selected for adaptability to the Pacific Northwest region (Idaho, Washington, and Oregon). Ericka was developed from a single-plant selection in 1983 from a segregating population of 0 to 5). Selections were planted in single-plant plots in 1991. At harvest, the highest-yielding plot was selected and the seed used for planting these in single-plant plots the following year. This process was repeated with Ericka for three generations.

Ericka was evaluated in field trials in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon for five seasons from 1992 to 1996. Performance was compared with six commercial cultivars: Cascade, Ceres, Tapidor, Glacier, and Capricorn. Three of these (Cascade and Pendleton) accounted for almost all the acreage of canola-quality winter rapeseed grown in the region over the years.

Over sites and years, Ericka produced higher seed yields (4355 kg ha⁻¹) than any of the six control cultivars (control cultivar average = 3438 kg ha⁻¹), and was significantly higher yielding than Cascade, Tapidor, and Glacier. Average yield was relatively consistent over years, ranging from 3680 kg ha⁻¹ to a high of 4902 kg ha⁻¹. Between 1992 and 1996, Ericka was compared with the six control cultivars in 22 different environments and was more productive than the highest-yielding control cultivar at 14 year-sites, and was second highest yielding on 4 other year-sites.

Average seed oil content of Ericka was 397 g kg⁻¹, which was not significantly different (P < 0.05) from the control cultivar which had the highest oil content at 400 g kg⁻¹, but was significantly higher than Ceres and 6 cm taller than Cascade. Ericka flowers at an average age of 101 d after 1 January, which is 4 d later than Cascade and 2 and 8 d earlier than Ceres and Pendleton, respectively. Plants mature 6 d earlier than Ceres, 12 d earlier than Pendleton, and 4 to 5 d later than Cascade. Average 1000-seed weight was equal to Cascade (4.5 g 1000 seed⁻¹).

U.S. plant variety protection of Ericka is pending (PVP Certificate no. 9700371). Seed increases are limited to foundation certified seed classes. Requests for seed of Ericka for production can be made to the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-2331. Seed of seed for experimental purposes will be available from the corresponding author for at least five years.

J. BROWN,* D. A. ERICKSON, J. B. DAVIDSON, A. P. BROWN, L. SHIP, AND D. L. AULD (6)

References and Notes

7. Dep. of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, Univ. of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-2339. Registration by CSSA. Accepted 30 Sept. 1997. *Corresponding author (jbrown@uidaho.edu).