



# BRIEFING

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## Mustard: Production, Uses, and Exports Kevin McNew and Sam Bixley

Agricultural Marketing Policy Center  
Linfield Hall  
P.O. Box 172920  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2920  
Tel: (406) 994-3511  
Fax: (406) 994-4838  
email: [ampc@montana.edu](mailto:ampc@montana.edu)  
website: [www.ampc.montana.edu](http://www.ampc.montana.edu)

### Production:

Mustard seed has been a major specialty crop in North America since European production was interrupted by World War II. Three types of mustard are grown in the United States; yellow, brown and oriental, with yellow mustard comprising 90 percent of planted acres.

Canada and Nepal produced 73 percent of the world's mustard seed in 2000 (Figure 1). Worldwide mustard seed production increased throughout the 1990's (Figure 2). U.S. production quadrupled from 1996 to 1998, before declining in 1999 and 2000 (Figure 3).

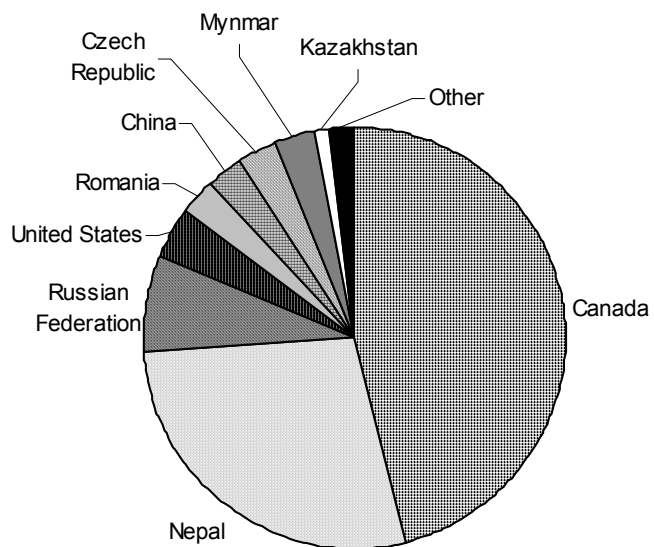
### Production Practices:

Mustard is a durable crop that can withstand a variety of climates. Seeds will germinate in soil temperatures as low as 40°F, with seedlings emerging soon after. Seedlings are tolerant to mild frosts, and mature plants have a taproot as long as five feet, allowing it to use water stored in the soil efficiently. Mustard does best in well-drained, fertile soils with a pH level of 7.

*Contact:*  
*Kevin McNew*  
  
*(406) 994-7816*  
  
*kmcnew@montana.edu*

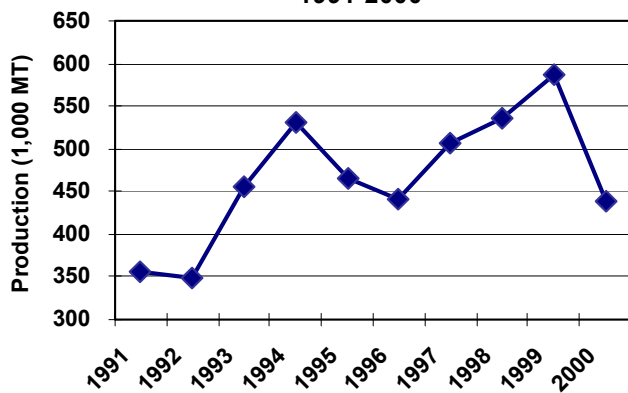
Objective  
Analysis  
for Informed  
Decision Making

**Figure 1: Mustard Seed Production by Country: 2000**

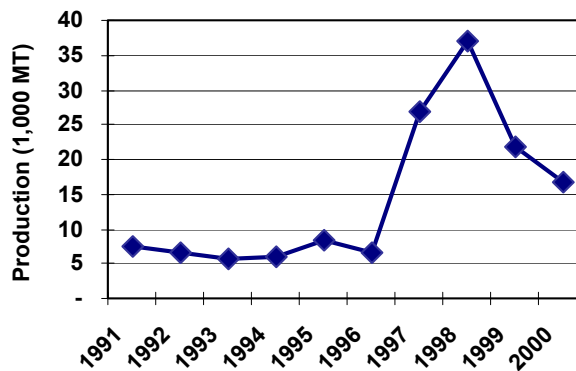


World Total: 439,435 Metric Tons

**Figure 2: World Mustard Seed Production:  
1991-2000**



**Figure 3: U.S. Mustard Seed Production:  
1991-2000**



**Consumption:**

Yellow mustard seed is typically processed into condiments. Some seed is dried and used as a spice for mayonnaise and salad dressing. Brown and oriental mustard seeds have a higher oil content and are typically used for making spicy oil, which is valued for flavoring vegetable oils in Asia.

**Imports and Exports:**

Major importers include Germany, Bangladesh, France and the United States, who combine for over 66 percent of all imports.

**Table 1: World Mustard Seed Imports, 2000**

Mustard Seed Imports	Metric Tons	Share of World
United States	16,687	18.75%
Germany	15,018	16.88%
Bangladesh	14,490	16.28%
France	12,459	14.00%
World	88,984	100.00%

Canada captured 60 percent of total world exports in 2000. The United States exported only 1.5 percent of the world's mustard seed, most of which was sold to Japan and Mexico.

**Table 2: World Mustard Seed Exports, 2000**

Mustard Seed Exports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Canada	46,582	60.10%
Czech Republic	6,177	7.97%
Hungary	5,658	7.30%
United States	1,209	1.56%
World	77,509	100.00%

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