

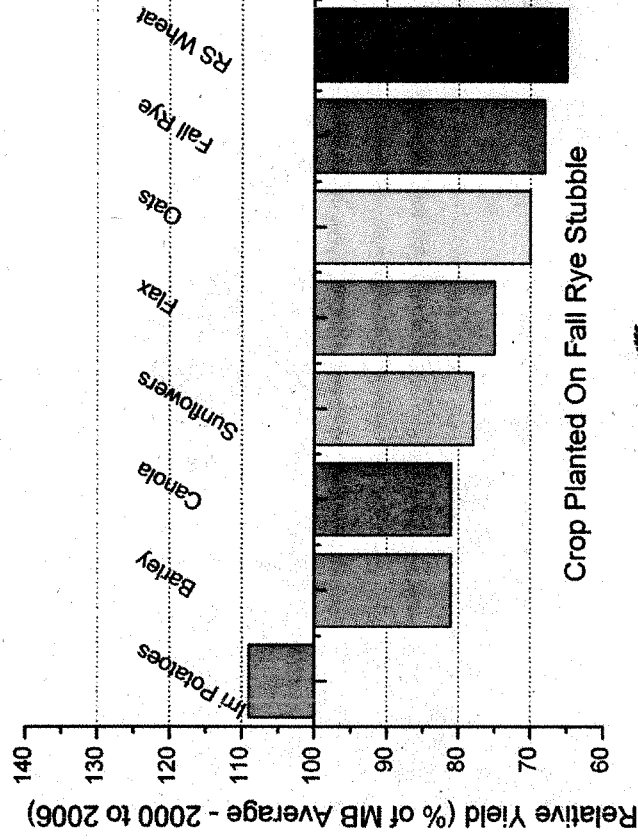
# What to grow after rye

Rye is a tough crop in the rotation because it seems to beat up on both canola and wheat that follow it. (See Doug Wilcox's article on page 6 of the March 10 issue.) In response to that article, Earl Cunningham from Saskatchewan e-mailed asking, "If you can't seed wheat or canola after rye, what is best to seed on that stubble?"

For the answer, we went back to Doug Wilcox, manager of program development for Manitoba crop insurance. Doug provided the chart and this explanation:

"The crop rotation information in the table illustrates Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) relative yield findings for the main crops planted annually on fall rye stubble in Manitoba. (MASC data represents nearly two thirds of the rye acres planted annually.) The most common crops planted on fall rye stubble were canola (22 per cent of acres), oats (nine per cent) and sunflowers (nine per cent). Except for irrigated potatoes, all the crops performed less than average when following fall rye. Crop yields on fall rye stubble ranged from 19 per cent below the provincial average yield for barley to 35 per cent below the provincial average for red spring wheat. Irrigated potatoes yielded nine per cent higher than the pro-

Influence of Fall Rye Stubble On Yield Of Manitoba Crops



Crop Planted On Fall Rye Stubble



vincial average yield, but planting irrigated potatoes is not an option for many producers.

The MASC data indicates that when selecting a crop to follow fall rye in a rotation, producers are usually faced with the unfortunate dilemma of picking a crop that will suffer the least, instead of the crop that will benefit the most.

One thing to keep in mind when looking at the fall rye impact on subsequent crops is that fall rye is

often the "neglected son" of crops. It is often planted on the worst land with a minimum of management because producers know that even when "neglected," fall rye will usually still pull through. Therefore subsequent crops may perform relatively poorly following fall rye not because of any fall rye effect but because they too end up being planted on poorer lands with little residual nutrients, etc."