

Enza Zaden
Seed Operations B.V.
Voor wereldwijde
ontwikkeling,
productie en
marketing van
groentezaden

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Dear Madam, Sir,

Enza Zaden is one of the world's leading vegetable breeding companies, known for its high-quality varieties, which are bred by an international group of plant breeders and researchers in different parts of the world.

The production of the Enza Zaden products is spread all over the world. One of the preferred and important areas is the Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA for radish and spinach.

The ODA recently chose to amend an administrative rule, first established in 2005, that provided protection for various seed, and fresh market growers throughout the Willamette Valley. In case canola productions will be started up in the Willamette Valley, we for see that this will have an impact on the quality of the productions of radish seed in the Willamette Valley. These threats are listed below:

1. Outcrossing the genetic trait of canola with mustard and finally with Brassicaceae and Raphanus (radish). This means that the so important area of the Willamette Valley is losing its benefits for us as a production area.
2. As canola is closely related to radish and it will act as a weed, there will be no way to clean the fields and make them free of canola. Contamination of the radish seed with canola seed will be the consequence.
3. With canola in the Willamette Valley, the pressure of diseases and pests will increase dramatically. In this perspective there are: Cabbage root maggot, Xanthomonas campestris, Phoma, Meligethes aeneus (canola pollen beetle). The canola pollen beetle is the worst pest you can imagine for radish. Production of radish in France are totally disappeared because of this beetle.
4. Production of the ENZA Zaden varieties has to take place in GMO free area's to avoid any contamination with GMO seed.

Currently the productions of Enza Zaden are substantial, placed with 2 production companies and subcontracted to a substantial amount growers. In case canola productions are allowed in the Willamette Valley, Enza Zaden has to explore new areas somewhere in the world, and will certainly move away from Oregon, USA.

Enza Zaden hopes that common sense will prevail in this dossier.

With kind regards

Enza Zaden Seed Operations B.V.

Peter Konijn
Production Manager

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