

Growing non-food sunflower in dryland conditions

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Sunflower is one of the most interesting crop in dry areas of Mediterranean regions.

Apart from its nutritional value in human diet, sunflower oil plays an important role as a non-food resource and can be used in many industrial processes. With this respect, high-oleic sunflower varieties seem to be particularly promising, thanks to their characteristics which make them particularly suitable to industrial needs.

The main problems related to high-oleic varieties concern the possibility of obtaining high oil yields at low costs and with a very high and constant oleic acid content.

This paper refers on the effects of some agronomic techniques to improve the oleic acid content of sunflower oil; besides, possibilities for reducing costs associated with oil production through simplified crop management techniques are also discussed.