

# California Transportation Fuel Crops

February 2012

## Fact Sheet

### The Issue

The 2006 Bioenergy Action Plan for California sets specific biofuels use targets in California to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Nevertheless, questions remain on how to provide measurable greenhouse gas reductions through the production of biofuels by California's agricultural sector. A stronger research and development initiative is necessary for the potential role of biofuels from energy crops to be accurately quantified, the best energy crop opportunities identified, and the implications of crop-based biofuel development fully understood.

### Project Description

This three-year research project will determine California's options for cultivating energy crops suitable for biofuels production. The research will identify potential crops for development and demonstration and then conduct field demonstrations, perform appropriate laboratory analyses to determine energy production and other coproduct potential, perform economic and technical evaluation to assess commercial readiness, and assess environmental impacts. Reports, articles, field days, and oral presentations will be used to disseminate the results.

The objectives of this agreement are to:

- Demonstrate potential energy and industrial crops under commercial conditions (focusing



Meadowfoam – a potential California oil crop  
Photo Credit: Oregon State University Seed Laboratory

on crops that use marginal lands and that minimize negative environmental effects).

- Familiarize growers with these crops.
- Determine the suitability of these crops for various energy and industrial markets.
- Determine costs.
- Determine energy balance of production.
- Identify barriers to commercialization.

### Anticipated Benefits for California

This project is designed as an effective next research and development step toward understanding transportation energy supply effects from California's agricultural sector. Completion of this project will provide a better quantification of the in-state potential for purpose-grown energy crops, identify energy crop options, and identify the agricultural opportunities, benefits, and land use impacts of energy crop production.

## Project Specifics

Contract Number: 500-09-006

Contractor: California Department of Food and  
Agriculture

City/County: Sacramento/ Sacramento County

Application: Statewide

Contract Amount: \$997,057

Contract Term: January 2010 to May 2013

For more information, please contact:

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