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FATTY ACID AND TRANSCRIPT PROFILING IN DEVELOPING SEEDS OF THREE *BRASSICA NAPUS* CULTIVARS

ABSTRACT

Fatty acid levels and gene expression profiles for selected genes associated with the synthesis of fatty acids (FA), triacylglycerol, and oil body proteins were examined in three oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*) cultivars that have utility for cultivar development in our spring canola breeding program. The seed oil content of Bronowski, Q2, and Westar was 39.0, 40.1, and 40.6%, respectively at 40 days after flowering (DAF). During the 20 to 40 day period of seed development, cultivars had varying levels of palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, α -linolenic, eicosenoic, and erucic acid. In general, the percentage of each FA was similar among the cultivars during seed development. However, the level of oleic acid was lower and the levels of eicosenoic acid and erucic acid were higher in Bronowski than in Q2 and Westar seeds; linoleic acid also tended to be lower in Bronowski. Gene expression among the cultivars was similar from 10 to 40 DAF. The few exceptions were that expression of *KASI* and *SAD* were higher in Westar and Q2 than in Bronowski at 25 DAF, *SAD* was highest in Q2, intermediate in Westar, and lowest in Bronowski at 35 DAF, *FAD2* was higher in Q2 than in Bronowski at 35 DAF, *FAD3* was higher in Q2 than in Bronowski at 15 DAF and Q2 and Westar at 25 and 30 DAF, and *FAE1* was higher in Westar and Q2 than in Bronowski at 30 DAF. Correlation analysis for gene expression against DAF for each genotype supported a common trend in gene expression among the three cultivars with gene expression tending to decrease over time; except for *LPAAT*, which tended to increase. The correlation between the level of FAs and expression of genes by genotype indicated no general trend; rather correlations seem to depend on the genotype.

Key words: *Brassica napus*, canola, fatty acid, gene expression, oilseed, rapeseed, seed.

INTRODUCTION

Brassica napus (L.) is commonly referred to as canola, rapeseed, or oilseed rape. Canola itself was bred from rapeseed in Canada to develop a nutritious oil low in glucosinolates and erucic acid (Stefansson *et al.* 1961; Stefansson and Kondra 1970), which are anti-nutritional components for humans and livestock. Canola is the second largest vegetable oilseed crop worldwide behind soybean (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/oil-crops-yearbook.aspx>). The U.S. ranks eighth in worldwide oilseed rape production (<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdQuery.aspx>), valued at approximately \$483 million in 2011/2013, yet the U.S. remains a primary importer of canola oil and meal (<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/CropValuSu/CropValuSu-02-14-2014.pdf>). Because 80% of the U.S. canola production is in the state of North Dakota, a public spring canola improvement project was initiated to develop germplasm adaptable to the Northern Plains of the U.S.

High oil yield and quality are fundamental to developing adapted germplasm. The biosynthesis and regulation of oil production in oilseeds is complex encompassing several steps and organelles within the cell (Baud and Lepiniec 2010; Bates *et al.* 2013; Li-Beisson *et al.* 2013). Rapeseed or canola oil is a mixture of triacylglycerols (TAG) that account for about 40-45% of the seed dry weight (Troncoso-Ponce *et al.* 2011). Initially, compounds like sucrose are imported into the plastid, and through a number of enzymatically mediated steps beginning with a multisubunit heteromeric acetyl-CoA carboxylase (HtACCCase), free fatty acids (FA) of 16 to 18 carbons are synthesized. Long-chain FA are then exported to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) for modification in the form of desaturation and elongation and assembly of TAG, which are esters of glycerol and FA. The formation of very long-chain FA (VLCFA) such as erucic acid (22:1), a major component of non-canola quality rapeseed oil, is enzymatically mediated by the fatty acid elongase complex (FAE), with fatty acid elongation1 (FAE1) being the first of four enzymes that comprise FAE. Synthesis of polyunsaturated FA such as linoleic (18:2) and α -linolenic acid (18:3) is mediated by fatty acid desaturase (FAD) enzymes. De novo assembly of TAG occurs by various routes in the ER, with the relatively straight forward one being the Kennedy pathway (Baud and Lepiniec 2010). This pathway encompasses a series of sequential acylation of a glycerol-3-phosphate backbone culminating with the third acylation catalyzed by diacylglycerol acyltransferase (DGAT). Finally, TAGs are stored in oil bodies composed of a matrix of TAGs and various proteins such as oleosins and steroleosin (Baud and Le-

piniec 2009). The TAGs are important as they act as a reserve for post-germination growth prior to achieving sufficient photosynthetic capacity and comprise the tremendous economic value for oilseed crops such as canola. Thus, it is important to understand the link between various genes involved in the oil biosynthesis during development and composition of seeds as a prelude to germplasm development, as well as to understand factors related to oilseed quality improvement.

While the FA composition in rapeseed oil has been documented (Canvin 1965), employing genomic techniques to evaluate expression of gene transcripts in relation to FA composition during rapeseed development is more recent. Hu *et al.* (2009) used quantitative reverse transcription (qRT-PCR) to examine transcript levels of 32 genes involved in the biosynthesis of FA, TAG, storage proteins, and in other physiological processes during seed development of an older Chinese high erucic acid cultivar and a descendent, low erucic acid cultivar. They determined that the transcription profiles were similar for both cultivars, while selection pressure for no erucic acid, low glucosinolates, high oleic acid, oil content, and yield affected the expression levels of several genes. In turn, they determined FA levels during seed development and correlated those with the gene transcripts. In another investigation, comparative transcriptome analysis in developing oilseeds of multiple species, including *B. napus*, relied on expressed sequence tag (EST) database development through pyrosequencing (Troncoso-Ponce *et al.* 2011). A notable outcome of this study was that regardless of the species ESTs representing almost all reactions of FA biosynthesis had comparable stoichiometry and consistent temporal profiles. This outcome and related results from EST sequencing and gene and protein expression studies suggest it is valid to make some cross species comparisons such as between *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *B. napus* (Niu *et al.* 2009; Venglat *et al.* 2013).

The first canola-type cultivar of summer rape released in Canada (Stefansson and Kondra 1975) was derived from a complex series of crosses that include selections from Liho and Bronowski to impart low erucic acid and glucosinolates, respectively. Likewise, subsequent canola quality summer rape cultivars, such as Westar and Q2, with superior agronomic and disease resistance traits (Klassen *et al.* 1987; Stringam *et al.* 1999) relied on series of crosses using germplasm with low erucic acid and glucosinolates. Westar, released in 1982 by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has been widely cultivated, modified, and used as a baseline for subsequent germplasm development (Juska *et al.* 1997). However, it is susceptible to a serious disease of canola called blackleg caused by the fungus *Leptosphaeria maculans*. Q2 released in 1998 by University of Alberta is resistant to blackleg disease and relatively resistant to lodging. We cultivated Bronowski, Westar, and Q2 in the greenhouse to examine for potential traits that could be used in our spring canola breed-

ing program. Thus, the objectives of this research were to examine fatty acid levels and expression profiles for selected genes associated with the synthesis of FA, TAG, and oil body proteins during seed development in the three cultivars.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Materials

Oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*) cultivars, Bronowski, Westar, and Q2 were grown in a greenhouse at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, USA, at 22±4°C (day and night). The seeds were sown in 15 cm (diameter) by 15 cm (depth) pots filled with Sunshine-Mix-1 (Sun Gro Horticulture). The plants were watered daily and fertilized with water soluble 20 N–20 P–20 K fertilizer. Light in the greenhouse was provided with a 16-h photoperiod by natural sunlight supplemented with 400 W HPS PL 2000 lights (P.L. Light Systems Inc. ON, Canada). During the flowering stage, plants were bagged (microperforated polybag, Crawford Provincial, ON, Canada) and allowed to self-pollinate. Developing pods were harvested at 5-day intervals, 10 to 40 days after flowering (DAF). Seeds were harvested into liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C for gas chromatographic analysis and RNA extraction. There were three biological replications per treatment.

Determination of Oil and Fatty Acid Profile

At 40 d after flowering (DAF), oil was extracted from seeds with n-hexane using accelerated solvent extraction (Dionex ASE 200, Thermo Scientific, Sunnyvale, CA) according to the methods of Haagensohn *et al.* (2010) for oil content determination. One gram canola seed was oven dried for 4 h at 70°C. Seed was milled in a coffee grinder with 3.5 g diatomaceous earth, and samples were loaded into 11 ml stainless steel cells. Any remaining extraction cell void volume was filled with diatomaceous earth prior to extraction. Extractions were performed at 100°C, 6.7 MPa with a 5 min equilibration time and three 10 min static cycles having a 100% flush volume and 60 s purge time. The solvent containing extracted oil was collected in pre-weighed vials, and solvent was evaporated to dryness with a stream of dry air (-70°C dew point). Extracted samples were air dried, and reground for a second extraction and the total oil recovery from the two extractions was recorded. Oil is reported as a percent of seed dry weight.

At 5 d intervals from 20 to 40 DAF, fatty acid profiles were determined on seeds air dried overnight at room temperature in a fume hood. Samples of 0.1 to 0.3 g of dried seed were ground in a mortar and pestle and vortexed in 0.5 to 2 ml of hexane-chloroform-sodium methoxide (HCSM) derivatization reagent to produce fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES). The HCSM reagent was freshly prepared by mixing 75 ml hexane, 20 ml chloroform (pentene stabilized), and 5 ml 0.5 M sodium methoxide in methanol (Sigma #403067). Analysis of the FAMES was carried out on

a Hewlett-Packard 5890 Series II gas chromatograph with a flame-ionization detector. Split injections of 1 μ l of the FAMES were separated on a J & W Scientific DB-23, 30 m by 0.25 mm, 0.25 μ m film column with helium carrier gas at 29 psi (1.9 ml/minute) and split flow at 50-100 ml/minute. The column was temperature programmed at 190°C for 4 min then to 220°C at 15°C/min and held 1 min, then to 240°C at 25°C/min and held 1 min. Inlet temperature was 230°C and detector temperature was 250°C with air at 345 ml/minute, hydrogen at 36 ml/minute, and helium makeup gas at 35 ml/minute. Nu-Check 21A and 411 standards were used to identify the FAMES.

Template cDNA preparation and quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR)

Total RNA was extracted at 5 d intervals from 10 to 40 DAF from canola seeds using the pine tree extraction protocol (Chang *et al.* 1993), and these samples were used to prepare template cDNA through reverse transcription following manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen). Briefly, 5 μ g of total RNA was DNase treated and then reverse transcription was performed in 20 μ l total volume using a SuperScript First-Strand Synthesis Kit to produce total cDNA from each sample. After cDNA synthesis, each 20 μ l reaction was diluted to 800 μ l and stored at -80°C.

Gene expression by qRT-PCR was examined using template cDNA on a Roche LightCycler® 480 real-time PCR system. Primer pairs were synthesized based on sequences from Hu *et al.* (2009) (Electronic Supplementary Table S1). qRT-PCR parameters were described previously by Chao (2008) with some modification. The formula used to calculate the fold differences is similar to the comparative C_T method ($\Delta\Delta C_T$) except that no control sample is incorporated in the calculation. Thus, levels of different target gene expressions can be compared based on the expression of a reference SAND family gene, which served as a base line. A canola SAND family gene was used as a reference because it was verified to be stably expressed during seed development (see Electronic Supplementary Fig. S1 and Table S1 & S2). The modified formula for fold difference in gene expression of target vs. reference gene is:

$$\Delta C_T = \Delta C_{T \text{ target}} - \Delta C_{T \text{ reference}}$$

where, $\Delta C_{T, \text{target}}$ is the C_T value of the target gene, and $\Delta C_{T, \text{reference}}$ is the C_T value of the reference gene. SYBR green chemistry was used to produce fluorescent signal, and three technical replicates were used per sample for the RT-qPCR experiments. The C_T value of each gene is the average of three technical replicates. The difference in gene expression is designated as log2 value. Heatmap of the qRT-PCR results in Fig. S1 was created based on log2 values using Eisen Lab software, Cluster and TreeView as described by Eisen *et al.* (1998).

Statistical Analysis

The standard error (SE) of the mean difference of Ct values between the target and reference (SAND family) genes were calculated based on

$$S_{\bar{Y}_A - \bar{Y}_B} = \sqrt{\frac{S_A^2}{n_A} + \frac{S_B^2}{n_B} - 2 \cdot \hat{\rho}_{A,B} \cdot \frac{S_A}{\sqrt{n_A}} \cdot \frac{S_B}{\sqrt{n_B}}}$$

where S_A and S_B are the standard deviations and n_A and n_B are the sample sizes for samples A and B . $\hat{\rho}_{AB}$ is the estimated correlation of these pairs. The 95% confidence intervals were obtained based on the *mean difference* $\pm t$ -value \times SE; the *t*-value with 2 degrees of freedom and 95% confidence is 4.303. The variance sum law was applied in the calculation of each reference gene normalized target gene SE and explains why the 95% confidence intervals for most of the target genes appeared very large.

MANOVA was used to compare FA profiles among cultivars using the *manova* function of the *stats* package in R (2015). The Wilks Lambda statistic was used to determine significant difference for the FA profiles (Johnson and Wichern 2007).

Pearson correlation coefficients between the FA and the gene expression by cultivar were computed using the *cor* function of the *stats* package in R (2015). Because only three biological replications were used in this study for each cultivar and DAF, only large effects and/or strong associations could be expected to be detected statistically.

RESULTS

Oil and Fatty Acids

The seed oil content of Bronowski, Westar, and Q2 grown in the greenhouse was 39.0, 40.6, and 40.1%, respectively. During the 20 to 40 d period of seed development, cultivars had varying levels of palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, α -linolenic, eicosenioc acid, and erucic acid (Fig. 1). Levels of the two saturated FA, palmitic acid and stearic acid, were similar among the cultivars averaging 7.5% and 4.4% and 2.5% and 1.9%, respective at 20 and 40 DAF. The level of oleic acid was the same in Westar and Q2 over the 20 to 40 d period, although there was a trend for slightly high levels in Westar. In contrast, the mean level of oleic acid in Bronowski seeds was about 25% lower over the 20 d period relative to Westar and Q2. In general, the levels for two polyunsaturated FA, linoleic acid and α -linolenic acid, were similar among the cultivars averaging 22.2% and 15.7% and 10.8% and 6.1%, respective at 20 and 40 DAF. Nevertheless, the trend was for higher levels of linoleic acid in Q2 > Westar > Bronowski seeds from 20 to 40 DAF. The monounsaturated VLCFAs, eicosenioc acid and erucic acid, varied tremendously among the cultivars, particularly for Bronowski. Eicosenioc acid

levels over the 20 to 40 d period averaged 16.3%, 1.5% and 1.4%, respective for Bronowski, Westar, and Q2 seeds. Erucic acid was not detected in Westar seeds and the levels in Q2 were 3% and 1.1% at 35 and 40 DAF, respectively. In contrast, erucic acid levels in Bronowski seeds increased from 10.9% to 22.5% of total FAs over the 20 to 40 d period.

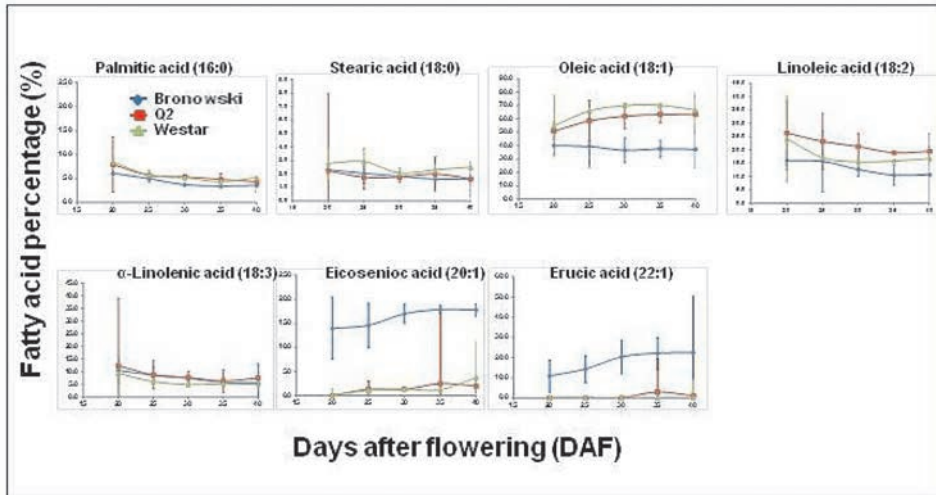


Fig. 1. Fatty acid accumulation during seed development. The levels of 7 fatty acids (palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, α -linolenic, eicosenoic, and erucic acid) were examined at 5-day intervals, 20 to 40 DAF in cultivars Bronowski, Westar, and Q2

Gene Expression

Gene designation, role, and location are provided in Table 1. Overall and as determined by the 95% confidence intervals, gene expression among the three cultivars was similar from 10 to 35 DAF (Fig. 2). We had only one data point for Bronowski genes at 40 DAF so confidence intervals could not be calculated. The few exceptions were that expression of *KASI* and *SAD* were higher in Westar and Q2 than in Bronowski at 25 DAF, *SAD* was highest in Q2, intermediate in Westar, and lowest in Bronowski at 35 DAF, *FAD2* expression was higher in Q2 than in Bronowski at 35 DAF, *FAD3* expression was higher in Q2 than in Bronowski at 15 DAF and Q2 and Westar at 25 and 30 DAF, and *FAEI* expression was higher in Westar and Q2 than in Bronowski at 30 DAF. At its peak, expression of the gene for the seed storage protein napin was nearly 33,000 fold higher (\log_2 of 15) than the *SAND* gene. Conversely, lowest level of expression was the caleosin gene at 1/64 (\log_2 of -6) that of the *SAND* gene at 10 DAF.

Table 1

Gene designation, role, and location

| Gene name | Gene annotation | Role | Location |
|-------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| <i>ACCase</i> | Homeomeric acetyl CoA carboxylase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Cytosol |
| <i>α-C7</i> | Alpha carboxyltransferase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>β-C7</i> | Beta carboxyltransferase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>BC</i> | Biotin carboxylase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>MCMT</i> | Malonyl-CoA:ACP malonyltransferase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>KAS1</i> | Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase 1 | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>KAS2</i> | Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase 2 | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>KAS3</i> | Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase 3 | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>HD/KACD</i> | 3-hydroxyacyl-ACP dehydratase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>SAD</i> | Stearyl-ACP desaturase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>FatA</i> | Acyl-ACP thioesterase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>FatB</i> | Palmitoyl-ACP thioesterase | Fatty acid biosynthesis | Plastid |
| <i>FAD6</i> | Oleate desaturase | Acid editing | Plastid |
| <i>FAD2</i> | Oleate desaturase | Acid editing | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>FAD3</i> | Linoleate desaturase | Acid editing | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>LPATT</i> | Lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase | Triacylglycerol biosynthesis | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>DGAT2</i> | Acyl-CoA:diacylglycerol acyltransferase | Triacylglycerol biosynthesis | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>AAPT1</i> | Aminoalcoholphosphotransferase | Triacylglycerol biosynthesis | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>FAE1</i> | Fatty acid elongase 1/3-ketoacyl-CoA synthase | Very long chain fatty acid biosynthesis | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>KCR2</i> | 3-ketoacyl-CoA reductase | Very long chain fatty acid biosynthesis | Endoplasmatic reticulum |
| <i>Oleosin</i> | Oil body associated protein | Storage protein | Oil body |
| <i>Cruciferin</i> | 12S neutral oil body protein | Storage protein | Oil body |
| <i>Napir</i> | 1.7S oil body protein | Storage protein | Oil body |
| <i>Caleosin</i> | Ca ²⁺ binding oil body surface protein | Storage protein | Oil body |

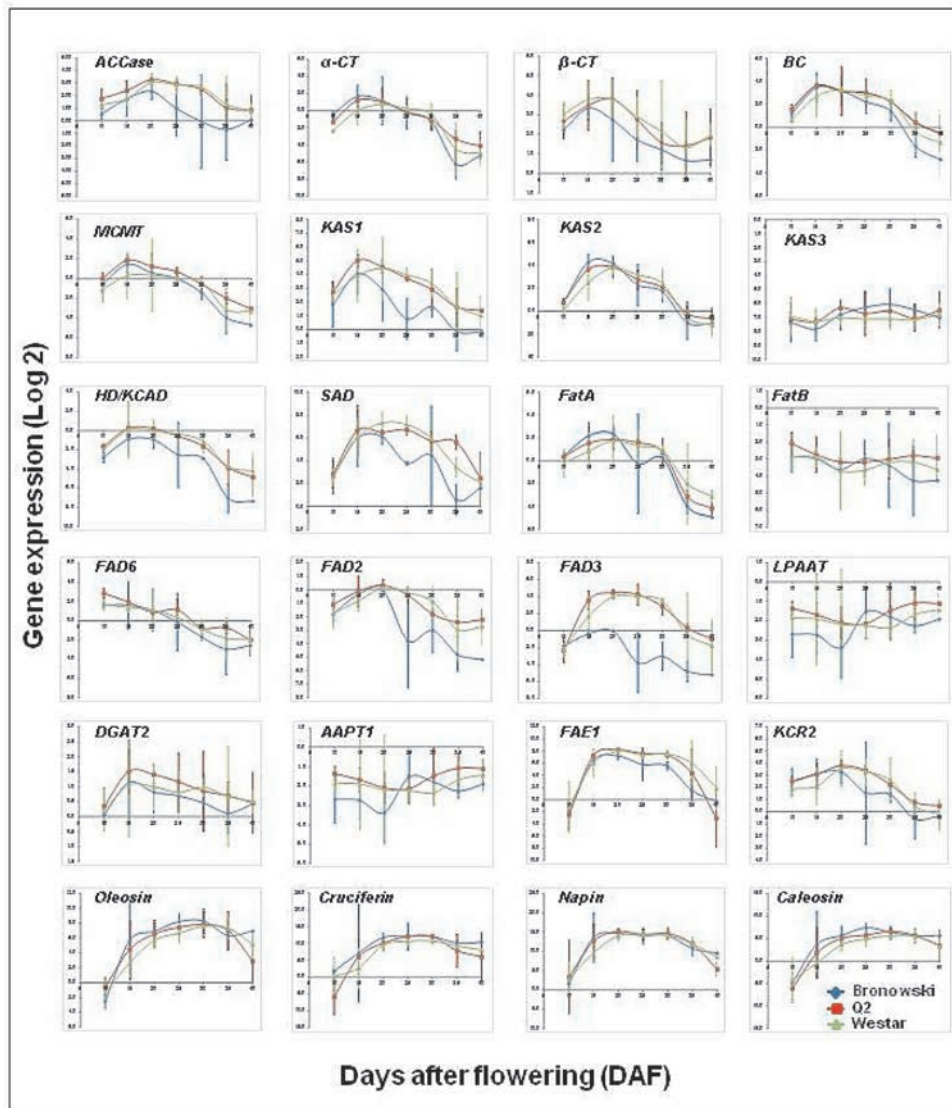


Fig. 2. Gene expression profiles during seed development. The expression profiles of 24 genes were examined at 5-day intervals, 10 to 40 DAF in cultivars Bronowski, Westar, and Q2. Levels of different target gene expressions were compared based on the expression of a reference SAND family gene, which also served as a base line here. The fold difference is designated as log₂ value. Gene designation is in Table 1. The 95% confidence intervals were obtained based on the mean difference \pm t-value \times SE

Table 2
 The correlation coefficients between fatty acid (FA) accumulation and levels of gene expression
 in cultivars Bronowski, Westar, and Q2 across days after flowering (DAF)

| Genotype | Fatty acid | ACCase | α CT | β CT | BC | MCAT | KAS1 | KAS2 | KAS3 | HD/KACD | SAD | FatA | FatB |
|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Bronowski | Palmitic | 0.699 | 0.642 | 0.724 | 0.668 | 0.677 | 0.452 | 0.71 | -0.084 | 0.605 | 0.489 | 0.61 | -0.033 |
| Bronowski | Stearic | 0.662 | 0.589 | 0.734 | 0.938 | 0.605 | 0.543 | 0.694 | 0.117 | 0.64 | 0.499 | 0.607 | -0.056 |
| Bronowski | Oleic | 0.603 | 0.603 | 0.484 | 0.61 | 0.666 | 0.457 | 0.597 | -0.531 | 0.501 | 0.549 | 0.53 | 0.725 |
| Bronowski | Linoleic | 0.337 | 0.332 | 0.599 | 0.371 | 0.349 | 0.22 | 0.378 | 0.21 | 0.345 | 0.433 | 0.377 | -0.119 |
| Bronowski | Linolenic | 0.978 | 0.735 | 0.885 | 0.728 | 0.765 | 0.527 | 0.751 | -0.193 | 0.742 | 0.803 | 0.733 | -0.148 |
| Bronowski | Eicosenoic | -0.565 | -0.627 | -0.758 | -0.623 | -0.647 | -0.286 | -0.618 | 0.068 | -0.539 | -0.57 | -0.589 | -0.096 |
| Bronowski | Erucic | -0.813 | -0.834 | -0.904 | -0.836 | 0.865 | -0.646 | -0.828 | 0.272 | -0.773 | -0.835 | -0.796 | -0.456 |
| Q2 | Palmitic | 0.708 | 0.749 | 0.789 | 0.678 | 0.722 | 0.808 | 0.792 | 0.186 | 0.783 | 0.681 | 0.729 | -0.132 |
| Q2 | Stearic | 0.299 | 0.314 | 0.43 | 0.369 | 0.387 | 0.485 | 0.431 | -0.002 | 0.342 | 0.42 | 0.364 | -0.327 |
| Q2 | Oleic | -0.622 | -0.605 | -0.752 | -0.558 | -0.629 | -0.726 | -0.686 | -0.32 | -0.67 | -0.609 | -0.637 | 0.062 |
| Q2 | Linoleic | 0.743 | -0.738 | 0.673 | 0.667 | 0.72 | 0.753 | 0.768 | 0.206 | 0.787 | 0.656 | 0.746 | -0.004 |
| Q2 | Linolenic | 0.499 | 0.481 | 0.839 | 0.369 | 0.451 | 0.595 | 0.535 | 0.532 | 0.557 | 0.473 | 0.481 | -0.169 |
| Q2 | Eicosenoic | -0.682 | -0.738 | -0.726 | -0.571 | -0.601 | -0.643 | -0.68 | -0.241 | -0.747 | -0.558 | -0.655 | 0.127 |
| Q2 | Erucic | -0.537 | -0.623 | -0.457 | -0.442 | 0.428 | -0.441 | -0.521 | -0.152 | -0.614 | -0.424 | -0.543 | 0.281 |
| Westar | Palmitic | 0.526 | 0.562 | 0.596 | 0.71 | 0.535 | 0.585 | 0.619 | -0.066 | 0.561 | 0.554 | 0.522 | -0.326 |
| Westar | Stearic | 0.22 | 0.317 | 0.45 | 0.443 | 0.353 | 0.429 | 0.35 | 0.065 | 0.308 | 0.425 | 0.268 | -0.454 |
| Westar | Oleic | -0.076 | -0.17 | -0.412 | -0.106 | -0.144 | -0.119 | -0.203 | 0.23 | -0.095 | -0.104 | -0.021 | 0.405 |
| Westar | Linoleic | 0.273 | 0.323 | 0.342 | 0.363 | 0.253 | 0.266 | 0.351 | -0.082 | 0.284 | 0.309 | 0.273 | -0.388 |
| Westar | Linolenic | 0.45 | 0.502 | 0.51 | 0.487 | 0.412 | 0.409 | 0.522 | -0.099 | 0.44 | 0.475 | 0.445 | -0.426 |
| Westar | Eicosenoic | -0.612 | -0.598 | -0.23 | -0.75 | -0.507 | -0.583 | 0.579 | -0.195 | -0.624 | -0.671 | -0.716 | 0.056 |
| Westar | Erucic | -0.566 | -0.507 | -0.144 | -0.691 | -0.449 | -0.524 | 0.512 | -0.218 | -0.574 | -0.612 | -0.672 | 0 |

Table 2

Continued

| Genotype | Fatty acid | FAD6 | FAD2 | FAD3 | LPAAT | DGAT2 | AAPT1 | FAE1 | KCR2 | Oleosin | Cuciferin | Napin | Coleosin |
|------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Brownowski | Palmitic | 0.805 | 0.693 | 0.586 | -0.07 | 0.554 | 0.469 | 0.64 | 0.697 | 0.029 | 0.572 | 0.584 | 0.107 |
| Brownowski | Stearic | 0.745 | 0.667 | 0.57 | -0.157 | 0.636 | 0.422 | 0.611 | 0.64 | -0.018 | 0.733 | 0.604 | -0.013 |
| Brownowski | Oleic | 0.685 | 0.522 | 0.577 | -0.039 | 0.303 | 0.754 | 0.513 | 0.584 | 0.505 | -0.288 | 0.496 | 0.22 |
| Brownowski | Linoleic | 0.489 | 0.37 | 0.299 | -0.149 | 0.355 | 0.211 | 0.4 | 0.322 | 0.007 | 0.774 | 0.419 | 0.108 |
| Brownowski | Linolenic | 0.777 | 0.746 | 0.688 | -0.373 | 0.509 | 0.601 | 0.71 | 0.708 | 0.069 | 0.552 | 0.658 | -0.094 |
| Brownowski | Eicosenoic | -0.745 | -0.586 | -0.529 | 0.037 | -0.409 | -0.483 | -0.604 | -0.592 | -0.16 | -0.557 | -0.563 | -0.246 |
| Brownowski | Erucic | -0.949 | -0.788 | -0.77 | 0.217 | -0.594 | -0.8 | -0.781 | -0.791 | -0.348 | -0.399 | -0.767 | -0.118 |
| Q2 | Palmitic | 0.672 | 0.705 | 0.681 | -0.61 | 0.704 | -0.125 | 0.62 | 0.746 | 0.278 | 0.338 | 0.528 | 0.298 |
| Q2 | Stearic | 0.527 | 0.395 | 0.323 | -0.207 | 0.151 | -0.187 | 0.425 | 0.381 | 0.419 | 0.237 | 0.647 | 0.333 |
| Q2 | Oleic | -0.503 | -0.624 | -0.614 | 0.562 | -0.651 | 0.168 | -0.538 | -0.649 | -0.187 | -0.289 | -0.386 | -0.235 |
| Q2 | Linoleic | 0.513 | 0.681 | 0.719 | -0.75 | 0.837 | -0.058 | 0.58 | 0.745 | 0.15 | 0.339 | 0.307 | 0.234 |
| Q2 | Linolenic | 0.292 | 0.486 | 0.471 | -0.341 | 0.544 | -0.332 | 0.434 | 0.483 | 0.092 | 0.297 | 0.197 | 0.184 |
| Q2 | Eicosenoic | -0.431 | -0.58 | -0.607 | 0.6 | -0.783 | 0.123 | -0.521 | -0.649 | -0.105 | -0.388 | -0.166 | -0.216 |
| Q2 | Erucic | -0.289 | -0.401 | -0.451 | 0.505 | -0.654 | 0.159 | -0.438 | -0.486 | -0.155 | -0.405 | -0.161 | -0.259 |
| Westar | Palmitic | 0.678 | 0.575 | 0.512 | -0.306 | 0.121 | -0.249 | 0.322 | 0.581 | -0.265 | -0.078 | 0.243 | -0.21 |
| Westar | Stearic | 0.578 | 0.39 | 0.261 | -0.064 | 0.004 | -0.042 | 0.174 | 0.366 | -0.246 | 0.112 | 0.177 | -0.116 |
| Westar | Oleic | -0.357 | 0.181 | -0.142 | 0.13 | 0.148 | 0.155 | 0.032 | -0.223 | 0.455 | 0.237 | 0.016 | 0.294 |
| Westar | Linoleic | 0.351 | 0.266 | 0.295 | -0.332 | -0.122 | -0.337 | 0.242 | 0.335 | -0.123 | 0.001 | 0.241 | -0.044 |
| Westar | Linolenic | 0.521 | 0.452 | 0.473 | -0.464 | 0.05 | -0.323 | 0.388 | 0.534 | -0.036 | 0.077 | 0.359 | -0.004 |
| Westar | Eicosenoic | -0.389 | -0.476 | -0.544 | 0.465 | -0.208 | 0.358 | -0.64 | -0.52 | -0.478 | -0.407 | -0.572 | -0.339 |
| Westar | Erucic | -0.295 | -0.418 | -0.493 | 0.429 | -0.212 | 0.317 | -0.614 | -0.455 | -0.537 | -0.429 | -0.55 | -0.376 |

Red and green colored coefficients display statistically significant ($\alpha=0.05$ Bonferroni adjusted for multiple tests within each gene and cultivar) positive and negative correlations, respectively

Correlations

We examined the correlation between FA levels and gene expression across DAF for each cultivar. The data support a common trend in gene expression among the three cultivars with gene expression tending to decrease over time; except for *LPAAT*, which tended to increase ([Electronic Supplementary Table S3](#)). In our subsequent determination of the correlation between the level of FAs and expression of genes by individual cultivar, we observed no consistent relationship between FA and gene expression, rather these correlations seem to depend on the individual cultivar (Table 2). Forty-eight (red) and 27 (green) coefficients displayed significant ($P < 0.05$) positive and negative correlations, respectively. Of these, 43, 29, and 3 were associated with Bronowski, Q2, and Westar, respectively. The correlation coefficients ranged from a positive correlation of 0.88 for β -CT and α -linolenic acid in Bronowski, to no correlation between *FatB* and erucic acid in Westar, to a highly negative correlation of -0.95 between *FAD6* and erucic acid in Bronowski. Interestingly, for Bronowski and Q2, 52% ($r^2 = 0.72$) or more of the variation in the expression of β -CT was related to variation in the level of palmitic acid, α -linolenic acid, and eicosenioc acid. In this case for Bronowski and Q2, expression of β -CT was positively correlated with levels of palmitic acid and α -linolenic acid, whereas levels of eicosenioc acid were negatively correlated with β -CT. For oleic acid, the correlations coefficients for most genes were positive for Bronowski but negative for Q2 and Westar; although most of the correlation coefficients were not significantly different. There were no significant correlations between the level of any fatty acid for the three cultivars and expression of *KAS3*, *Oleosin*, and *Caleosin* genes when correlations were computed across DAF.

DISCUSSION

We designed this investigation of *B. napus* seed development after a similar study by Hu *et al.* (2009). They examined an older high erucic acid cultivar Zhongyou 821 (ZY821) and a low erucic acid descendant of ZY821, Zhongshuang 9 (ZS9). In turn, we employed several cultivars important for breeding improved germplasm adapted to a region of the U.S. where 80% of the spring canola is produced. The level of seed oil at maturity in our three greenhouse grown cultivars was 2.7 to 7.7% lower than the content reported for seeds of these cultivars from field grown plants (Bronowski 41.7%, Westar 43.3%, and Q2 47.8%), but were similar to the level in rapeseed cultivars (ZY821 39.8% , ZS9 42%, respectively).

The abundance of FA in our three cultivars was typical relative to another report with oleic acid > linoleic > α -linolenic (Vuorinen *et al.* 2014). The VLCFAs, eicosenioc acid and erucic acid, as reported previously Finlayson *et al.*, 1973, were higher in Bronowski at the expense of oleic acid, which is the

economically important FA component. In contrast to the level of eicosenioc acid in Bronowski (17%), the level in ZY821 was reduced by about one-half (9.75%); whereas, the level of erucic acid in Bronowski (21%) was reduced by about one-half the level in ZY821 (42%) (Hu *et al.* 2009). These difference likely reflect dissimilarity in genetic background of the cultivars.

We examined nearly the same set of genes as reported by Hu *et al.* (2009), but direct comparison is problematic because different reference genes (*β -actin* vs. *SAND*) were utilized for qRT-PCR normalization, different statistical procedures were employed, and we expressed our data on a log₂ scale. To compare fold differences between relative copy number data (Hu *et al.* 2009) and our log₂ scale data would require numerical data for the qRT-PCR done by Hu *et al.* (2009). This is because fold estimates are not possible when the relative copy number value is close to zero as is the case for many of the genes they examined. Nevertheless, similarities and differences in general trends can be discerned (see Fig. 2 (Hu *et al.* 2009)). For example, the biosynthesis of FAs begins with ACCase catalyzing the carboxylation of acetyl-CoA to malonyl-CoA. Expression of *β -CT*, a gene encoding for β -carboxyltransferase, one of four components of the heteromeric ACCase, is nearly the same in the two studies, increasing by about 2 fold from 10 to 15 DAF and thereafter decreasing about 2 fold by 35 DAF. Expression of *FAEI*, a component of a multienzyme complex involved in VLCFA biosynthesis, increases by 5 fold from 25 to 40 DAF in ZY821 and thereafter decreased to the 25 DAF level; whereas, the expression peaks (log₂ = 7) around 15 DAF in Bronowski and thereafter decreases 128 fold by 40 DAF (log₂ = 0).

The expression profile of the seed storage proteins was similar among Westar, Q2, and Bronowski, which was similar to that observed based on a comparison between Westar and Reston (Katavic *et al.* 2002), another high erucic acid (26%) low oleic acid (30%) cultivar similar to Bronowski. However, the expression profiles of the seed storage proteins between our cultivars and ZY821 and ZS9 differed (see Fig. 2 (Hu *et al.* 2009)). For example, oleosin, which is the major protein component of oil bodies, narrowly peaked at 40 DAF in ZY821 with a relative copy number of 25,000 (log₂ =14.6) and 12,500 for ZS9 (log₂ = 13.6); whereas in the cultivars we examined the broad peak occurred around 25 DAF with a log₂ = 7. However, the *napin* gene, which accounted for over 75% of total transcription from all 32 genes assessed by Hu *et al.* (2009), and displayed the highest level of expression among the genes we assessed, had nearly the same level of expression at its peak; ZY821 and ZS9 peaked at 40 and 35 DAF, respectively with a similar relative copy number of 175,000 (log₂ =17.4); whereas in the cultivars we examined the broad peak occurred around 25 DAF with a log₂ = 13. In any event, the seed storage protein genes in both studies generally displayed the highest level of expression of the genes assessed.

Some of the genes we appraised were significantly correlated with fatty acid accumulation, especially for the Bronowski and Q2 cultivars. In particular, the level of several FAs was correlated with β -CT expression. β -CT encodes for one of the subunits (α -CT, β -CT and BC) for the plastid localized heteromeric AC-Case, which catalyzes the first committed step of fatty acid biosynthesis. This gene is thought to be unique in that it is the only known lipid metabolism gene that is encoded by the plastid genome (Elborough *et al.* 1996; Li-Beisson *et al.* 2013). In the high erucic acid cultivars Bronowski and ZY821, β -CT expression was negatively correlated with erucic acid, whereas β -CT expression was positively correlated with palmitic acid, steric acid, α -linoleic acid in Bronowski, but not in ZY821 (Hu *et al.* 2009). Perhaps there is a negative correlation between erucic acid levels and β -CT expression because expression of this gene is declining, while erucic acid levels increase after 25 DAF.

Different patterns of gene expression exists for *FAE1* between the high erucic acid cultivars Bronowski and ZY821 (Hu *et al.* 2009). *FAE1* is a component of the multi-enzyme complex involved in VLCFA biosynthesis; mutations in the *FAE1* gene are responsible for the low erucic acid trait (Puyaubert *et al.* 2005). Erucic acid levels peak by 30 DAF in Bronowski, whereas the levels substantially increases in ZY821 until 40 DAF. Thus, the negative correlation coefficient (-0.78) that we observed for *FAE1* and erucic acid in Bronowski is consistent with a large fold decrease in gene expression and slightly increased level of erucic acid as Bronowski seeds mature. However, the positive correlation (0.78) between erucic acid and *FAE1* for ZY821 is likely explained by the much different temporal pattern of *FAE1* expression and erucic acid accumulation (see Fig. 2 (Hu *et al.* 2009)). The high level of *FAE1* expression in low erucic acid cultivars such as Q2, ZS9 and other cultivars (Hu *et al.* 2009; Vuorinen *et al.* 2014) might seem inconsistent with the absence of VLCFAs. However, as mentioned, *FAE1* gene contains a mutation that result in the absence of 3-ketoacyl-CoA synthase protein, thus preventing the synthesis of VLCFAs (Puyaubert *et al.* 2005; Wu *et al.* 2008). Interestingly, Westar contains a point mutation while ZS9 contains a point mutation and four base pair deletion (Katavic *et al.* 2006; Wu *et al.* 2008). Overall, appraisal of the correlation coefficients, which are sometimes different between our cultivars and the Chinese cultivars investigated by Hu *et al.* (2009), is instructive of the different patterns of gene expression in relation to a particular FA or storage protein.

The results of this investigation, which employed three publically available cultivars from Canadian breeding programs, provide background data into the transcriptional network for FA, TAG, and seed storage proteins. By comparing the outcome of our investigation to that of Hu *et al.* (2009), we further demonstrated that genetic background of the cultivars from different breeding programs affects important metabolic and molecular responses during oilseed development. In any event, these insights and benchmark data will be important

for the success of the recent public spring canola improvement project we initiated to develop germplasm adaptable to the Northern Plains of the U.S.

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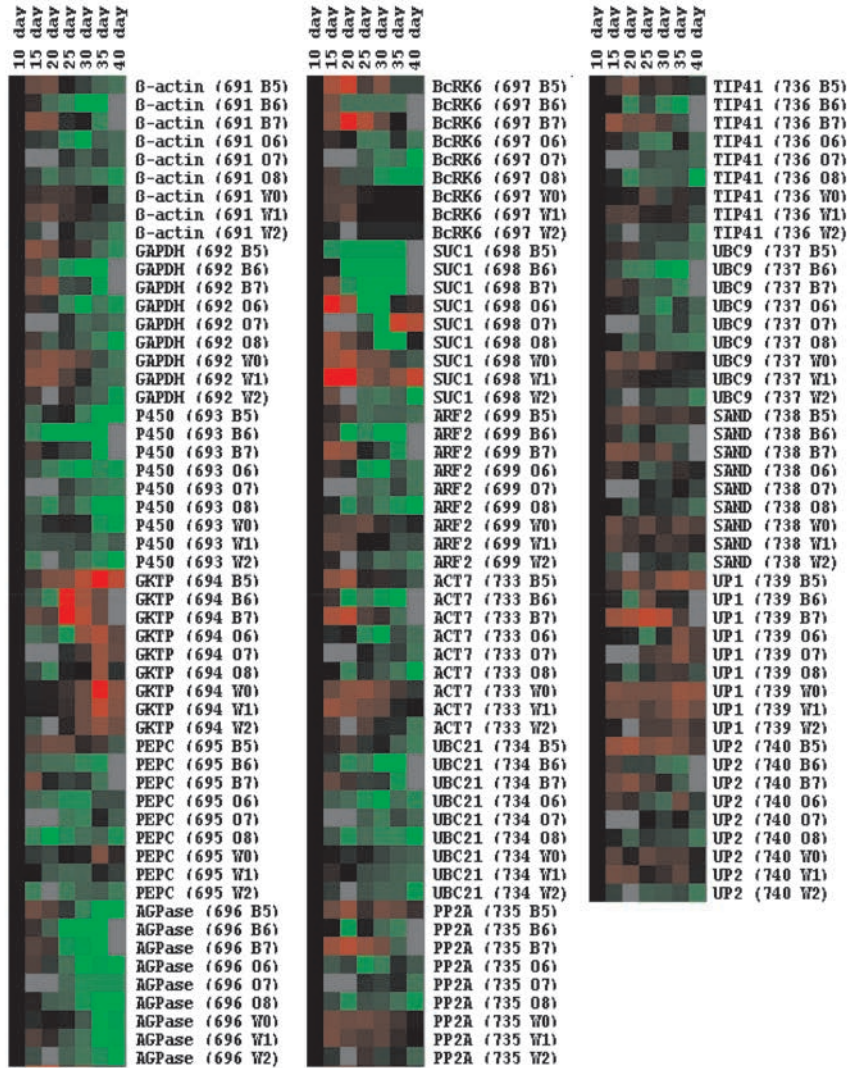
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SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE AND TABLES



Heat map of various genes including SAND family gene. The formula used to calculate the fold differences is similar to the standard comparative C_T method ($\Delta\Delta C_T$) except that no endogenous reference gene is incorporated in the calculation since we want to determine stably expressed genes before normalization. The modified formula for fold difference in gene expression of test vs control sample is $\Delta C_T = \Delta C_{T, \text{test}} - \Delta C_{T, \text{control}}$. Here, $\Delta C_{T, \text{test}}$ is the C_T value of the test sample, and $\Delta C_{T, \text{control}}$ is the C_T value of the control sample, a 10 day sample (see Supplementary Table S1 for gene designation and primer sequences).

Supplementary Fig S1

Supplementary Table S1: Primers used for qRT-PCR analysis

| Primer set | Canola Primer pairs | | | | Gene annotation | Primer name | Primer sequence | Amplicon size(bp) | PCR efficiency |
|------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Category | Accession number | Gene name | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 667a | | X77382 | <i>ACCase</i> | Homomeric acetyl CoA carboxylase | <i>Bn_ACCase_F</i> | F:5'AGGACTTGCCAATCTTCTAAAC3' | 157 | 0.973 | |
| 667b | | | | | <i>Bn_ACCase_R</i> | R:5'AGCTTCTTTCACCCGTAGGACAC3' | | | |
| 668a | | AY538675 | <i>α-CT</i> | alpha-carboxyltransferase | <i>Bn_α-CT_F</i> | F:5'CTTGTCCACCCTATCTGATTG3' | 106 | 0.958 | |
| 668b | | | | | <i>Bn_α-CT_R</i> | R:5'ATGTCCAGCTTAGATTGAGGC3' | | | |
| 669a | ACCase | Z50868 | <i>β-CT</i> | Beta-carboxyltransferase | <i>Bn_β-CT_F</i> | F:5'CAGCAAGTTTGGGTAATGTTGGG3' | 116 | 1.03 | |
| 669b | | | | | <i>Bn_β-CT_R</i> | R:5'GTGAACCTTCAGGCACGGGCTTT3' | | | |
| 670a | | AY034410 | <i>BC</i> | Biotin carboxylase | <i>Bn_BC_F</i> | F:5'AGGACCCCAITCAAAGGATTCAG3' | 118 | 1 | |
| 670b | | | | | <i>Bn_BC_R</i> | R:5'GCTTGGAGGAACAACATAGTCG3' | | | |
| 671a | | AY642537 | <i>SAD</i> | Stearoyl-ACP desaturase | <i>Bn_SAD_F</i> | F:5'GTTTACACTGCCAAAGACTATGCG3' | 135 | 0.937 | |
| 671b | | | | | <i>Bn_SAD_R</i> | R:5'CCGTGATTCGGGAGTCAACCCAC3' | | | |
| 672a | | AY592975 | <i>FAD2</i> | Oleate desaturase | <i>Bn_FAD2_F</i> | F:5'AGGCGATAAAGCCGATACATTGG3' | 107 | 1.095 | |
| 672b | | | | | <i>Bn_FAD2_R</i> | R:5'CTATCCGGTTCACATAGATACACT3' | | | |
| 673a | Desaturase | AY599884 | <i>FAD3</i> | Linoleate desaturase | <i>Bn_FAD3_F</i> | F:5'TTCCCACAAAATCCCTCACTATCA3' | 132 | 0.936 | |
| 673b | | | | | <i>Bn_FAD3_R</i> | R:5'ACTTGCCACCAAACTTTCCACC3' | | | |
| 674a | | AY642535 | <i>FAD6</i> | Oleate desaturase | <i>Bn_FAD6_F</i> | F:5'ATCACATAAAGCCCAAGGATACCCG3' | 116 | 0.953 | |
| 674b | | | | | <i>Bn_FAD6_R</i> | R:5'TCGTCTTCATCAACCCCAATT3' | | | |

Supplementary Table S1—continued

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|------|--------------|----------|----------------|---|------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 675a | | AJ007046 | <i>MCMT</i> | Malonyl CoA-ACP malonyltransferase | <i>Bn_MCAT_F</i> | F:5'ATCATAGGGTTGGACTCAGAAA 3' | 116 | 0.955 |
| 675b | | | | | <i>Bn_MCAT_R</i> | R:5'ACTGCGTAGTTACCCGGACATA 3' | | |
| 676a | | AF244519 | <i>KAS1</i> | Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase 1 | <i>Bn_KAS1_F</i> | F:5'ACACGGTCGCAACGAGAGAAA 3' | 204 | 0.976 |
| 676b | | | | | <i>Bn_KAS1_R</i> | R:5'GAAGATAATGGTGATGGAGCAG 3' | | |
| 677a | | AF244520 | <i>KAS2</i> | Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase 2 | <i>Bn_KAS2_F</i> | F:5'GGAGTACCAGCCCTTGTCTAC 3' | 133 | 0.812 |
| 677b | | | | | <i>Bn_KAS2_R</i> | R:5'TCCTTATGGCCTGCACAGTTGC 3' | | |
| 678a | | AF179854 | <i>KAS3</i> | Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase 3 | <i>Bn_KAS3_F</i> | F:5'GGATGATGGGTTATTAGTTTC 3' | 108 | 0.918 |
| 678b | Elongase | | | | <i>Bn_KAS3_R</i> | R:5'CCAAAAGGGTAAAGCAGGAGAA 3' | | |
| 679a | | AF009563 | <i>FAE1</i> | Fatty acid elongase 1/3-ketoacyl-CoA synthase | <i>Bn_FAE1_F</i> | F:5'GTCAGGCTTTAAGTGTAAACAGTCA 3' | 159 | 0.957 |
| 679b | | | | | <i>Bn_FAE1_R</i> | R:5'TTATTAGGACCGACCGTTTGG 3' | | |
| 680a | | AF382146 | <i>HD/KACD</i> | 3-keto-acyl-ACP dehydratase | <i>Bn_KACD_F</i> | F:5'GATAGCGAAAATGGAAAGGAAA 3' | 115 | 0.958 |
| 680b | | | | | <i>Bn_KACD_R</i> | R:5'AAAGCAAAGGCCACGAGAACATA 3' | | |
| 681a | | AY196197 | <i>KCR2</i> | 3-ketoacyl-CoA reductase | <i>Bn_KCR2_F</i> | F:5'TGAGTACAAGAAAAGTGGGATTG 3' | 101 | 0.983 |
| 681b | | | | | <i>Bn_KCR2_R</i> | R:5'GAGATGCCACTAAAGAAAGATGCT 3' | | |
| 682a | | BRU17098 | <i>FatA</i> | Acyl-ACP thioesterase | <i>Bn_FatA_F</i> | F:5'GGGACCAATGGCTCTGCATCAT 3' | 121 | 0.965 |
| 682b | | | | | <i>Bn_FatA_R</i> | R:5'GGCTTCTTCTCCACAGGGTTG 3' | | |
| 683a | Thioesterase | DQ847275 | <i>FatB</i> | Palmitoyl-ACP thioesterase | <i>Bn_FatB_F</i> | F:5'AGTTTGTGGGTGATGAATA 3' | 107 | 0.944 |
| 683b | | | | | <i>Bn_FatB_R</i> | R:5'GCAAGGATAGGGTTCAGAGTCA 3' | | |

Supplementary Table S1—continued

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 684a | | AF155224 | <i>DGAT2</i> | Acyl-CoA: diacylglycerol acyltransferase | <i>Bn_DGAT2_F</i> | F:5'CATGACCTGATGACCACAAAG3' | 111 | 0,985 |
| 684b | | | | | <i>Bn_DGAT2_R</i> | R:5'ACGGCTACCAAAAGGATACAAA3' | | |
| 685a | TAG syn- | AF111161 | <i>LPAAT</i> | Lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase | <i>Bn_LPAAT_F</i> | F:5'CGAAGAGCGGAGAAAAGATAG3' | 100 | 0,97 |
| 685b | thesis | | | | <i>Bn_LPAAT_R</i> | R:5'TGGTTTAGCCTTCTCATTTGTTCA3' | | |
| 686a | | AY179560 | <i>AAPT1</i> | Aminoalcoholphosphotransferase | <i>Bn_AAPT1_F</i> | F:5'TGGTGCTTCTTGGTTATTGTAT3' | 156 | 0,821 |
| 686b | | | | | <i>Bn_AAPT1_R</i> | R:5'GGAITTTGCATTAICCTCCCTTG3' | | |
| 687a | | AY570250 | <i>Napin</i> | 1.7S oil body protein | <i>Bn_Napin_F</i> | F:5'GACCCCTCGATGGTGGTTTGA3' | 148 | 0,958 |
| 687b | | | | | <i>Bn_Napin_R</i> | R:5'CTTTTGGATGCTCTCTTCAAGGT3' | | |
| 688a | | AY966447 | <i>Caleosin</i> | Ca ²⁺ -binding oil body surface protein | <i>Bn_Caleosin_F</i> | F:5'GTAATCAATTTGGCCCTTAGCT3' | 116 | 0,952 |
| 688b | Oil body | | | | <i>Bn_Caleosin_R</i> | R:5'CTCAAAGATTCACAGGCATAAAAC3' | | |
| 689a | protein | X58000 | <i>Oleosin</i> | oil body associated protein | <i>Bn_Oleosin_F</i> | F:5'CTGGGAGGCAAAAGTTCAGGATA3' | 122 | 0,969 |
| 689b | | | | | <i>Bn_Oleosin_R</i> | R:5'CATGGCGTAATTTAGGTAGTGT3' | | |
| 690a | | M16860 | <i>Cruciferin</i> | 12S neutral oil bodyprotein | <i>Bn_Cruciferin_F</i> | F:5'GAGGAGTCAGAGACCCGCAGGA3' | 165 | 0,969 |
| 690b | | | | | <i>Bn_Cruciferin_R</i> | R:5'AAGGAAAGCAAGGATGGGGAGA3' | | |
| 691a | | AF111812 | <i>β-actin</i> | Housekeeping gene | <i>Bn_β-actin_F</i> | F:5'CTGGAATTCGTGACCCGTATGAG3' | 145 | 1,001 |
| 691b | Housekeep | | | | <i>Bn_β-actin_R</i> | R:5'ATCTGTGTGGAAAAGTCTGAGGG3' | | |
| 692a | genes | DQ097338 | <i>GAPDH</i> | Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase | <i>Bn_GAPDH_F</i> | F:5'GCTATCAAGGAGGAATCTGAGGAC3' | 146 | 0,936 |
| 692b | | | | | <i>Bn_GAPDH_R</i> | R:5'CTCACGAAAATTGTCACCTCAACG3' | | |
| 693a | | DQ167182 | <i>P450</i> | Cytochrome P450 | <i>Bn_P450_F</i> | F:5'ATGGATCTCGGGATCGGACAGT3' | 156 | 0,954 |
| 693b | | | | | <i>Bn_P450_R</i> | R:5'GTCAAAGCGATGACGGAGCAAAA3' | | |
| 694a | Others | X93015 | <i>GKTP</i> | Glyoxyosomal beta-ketoacyl-thiolase precursor | <i>Bn_GKTP_F</i> | F:5'GTTGGTCCAGCAGTTGCCAATTC3' | 159 | 0,934 |
| 694b | | | | | <i>Bn_GKTP_R</i> | R:5'CGCCCTCCGTGACATTGATTT3' | | |

Supplementary Table S1—continued

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|------|--------|----------|---------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 695a | | AJ223497 | <i>PEPC</i> | Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase | <i>Bn_PEPF_F</i> | F:5'GGTTGGGTTTATTGGTTTGTGTTATG3' | 134 | 0,934 |
| 695b | | | | | <i>Bn_PEPF_R</i> | R:5'ATTCCCTTCCTCGGTTTGTGTTA3' | | |
| 696a | | AJ271162 | <i>AGPase</i> | ADP-glucose pyrophosphorylase small sub- | <i>Bn_AGPase_F</i> | F:5'AGACACCACCACCCCGGTTTGAC3' | 129 | 0,974 |
| 696b | | | | | <i>Bn_AGPase_R</i> | R:5'TTTAGGGATAAGGCAGGAGGAT3' | | |
| 697a | | AB041622 | <i>BcRK6</i> | Receptor kinase 6 | <i>Bn_BcRK6_F</i> | F:5'AGGTTAAAGTGACGGGCAAGAAA3' | 143 | 1,019 |
| 697b | | | | | <i>Bn_BcRK6_R</i> | R:5'TTGAACGCAACAGCCAAAGAAAGT3' | | |
| 698a | | AY065839 | <i>SUC1</i> | Sucrose transporter | <i>Bn_SUC1_F</i> | F:5'GCCAAGGACTGTGCTTGGAGTTT3' | 133 | 0,97 |
| 698b | | | | | <i>Bn_SUC1_R</i> | R:5'TGCGATTGCTCCGGACTATAAATG3' | | |
| 699a | | AJ716227 | <i>ARF2</i> | Auxin Response Factor2 | <i>Bn_ARF2_F</i> | F:5'ACCACTAGTATTCCTGCCCTGAT3' | 171 | |
| 699b | | | | | <i>Bn_ARF2_R</i> | R:5'TGCCCTTAGATGAGCCCTTCCCTTAT3' | | |
| 733a | | EV116054 | <i>ACT7</i> | Actin | <i>ACT7F</i> | 5'-TGGGTTTGCJGGTGACGAT | 63 | |
| 733b | | | | | <i>ACT7R</i> | 5'-TGCCTAGGACGACCAACAATACT | | |
| 734a | Others | EV086936 | <i>UBC2I</i> | Ubiquitin conjugating enzyme 21 | <i>UBC2IF</i> | 5'-CCTCTGCAGCCTCCTCAAGT | 77 | |
| 734b | | | | | <i>UBC2IR</i> | 5'-CATATCTCCCTGCTTGAATGC | | |
| 735a | | EV051005 | <i>PP2A</i> | Regulatory subunit of protein phosphatase 2A | <i>PP2AF</i> | 5'-TGGCTTCAATTATAATGGGAATGG | 75 | |
| 735b | | | | | <i>PP2AR</i> | 5'-GAAAAGATTGGAAGGAGATGCTCAAT | | |
| 736a | | EV222761 | <i>TIP4I</i> | TIP41-like family protein | <i>TIP4IF</i> | 5'-AGAGTCATGCCAAGTTCATGGTT | 69 | |
| 736b | | | | | <i>TIP4IR</i> | 5'-CCTCATAAGCACACCATCAACTCTAA | | |
| 737a | | EV002123 | <i>UBC9</i> | Ubiquitin conjugating enzyme 9 | <i>UBC9F</i> | 5'-GCATCTGGCTCGACATCTTGA | 68 | |
| 737b | | | | | <i>UBC9R</i> | 5'-GACAGCAGCACCTTGGAAATG | | |
| 738a | | EV084276 | <i>SAND</i> | SAND-family protein | <i>SANDF</i> | 5'-GCTGGTCACTCCAGATTTTG | 63 | |
| 738b | | | | | <i>SANDR</i> | 5'-CCATGCCCTTGTCTGCAAG | | |
| 739a | | EE450388 | <i>UPI</i> | Unknown protein | <i>UPIF</i> | 5'-AGCCTGAGGAGATATTAGCAGGAA | 87 | |
| 739b | | | | | <i>UPIR</i> | 5'-ATCTCACTGCAGCTCCACCAT | | |
| 740a | | EV116750 | <i>UP2</i> | Unknown protein | <i>UP2F</i> | 5'-AAATTCCTGGGAGGGAAGCTAT | 70 | |
| 740b | | | | | <i>UP2R</i> | 5'-TTCTGTCTCAGGAGCGGAAGTCAT | | |

Supplementary Table S2: Cycle threshold (CT) values for reference genes 10 d value as a baseline

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name Primer # | Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------------|--------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| β -actin (691 B5) | β -actin (691 B5) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 21.833 | 20.950 | 20.770 | 21.737 | 22.250 | 22.927 | 23.280 |
| β -actin (691 B6) | β -actin (691 B6) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 20.803 | 20.573 | 22.037 | 22.690 | 24.260 | 24.580 | no cDNA |
| β -actin (691 B7) | β -actin (691 B7) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 21.883 | 20.490 | 20.570 | 22.110 | 21.953 | 23.870 | no cDNA |
| β -actin (691 Q6) | β -actin (691 Q6) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 20.970 | 21.290 | 21.473 | 23.070 | 24.820 | 21.920 | 22.177 |
| β -actin (691 Q7) | β -actin (691 Q7) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 21.060 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 21.327 | 21.980 | 21.463 | 22.313 |
| β -actin (691 Q8) | β -actin (691 Q8) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 20.870 | 21.307 | 22.443 | 21.623 | 22.010 | 22.597 | 23.313 |
| β -actin (691 W0) | β -actin (691 W0) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 22.173 | 21.843 | 21.663 | 21.710 | 21.987 | 22.147 | 23.350 |
| β -actin (691 W1) | β -actin (691 W1) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 22.220 | 21.380 | 21.207 | 21.870 | 22.020 | 22.577 | 22.783 |
| β -actin (691 W2) | β -actin (691 W2) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 21.187 | 21.680 | no cDNA | 21.277 | 21.817 | 21.837 | 22.970 |
| GAPDH (692 B5) | GAPDH (692 B5) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 23.110 | 21.717 | 22.017 | 22.947 | 22.767 | 24.327 | 25.257 |
| GAPDH (692 B6) | GAPDH (692 B6) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 21.980 | 21.330 | 22.970 | 24.310 | 25.343 | 25.757 | no cDNA |
| GAPDH (692 B7) | GAPDH (692 B7) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 22.900 | 21.720 | 21.300 | 23.500 | 23.357 | 25.770 | no cDNA |
| GAPDH (692 Q6) | GAPDH (692 Q6) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 22.183 | 21.813 | 22.480 | 24.037 | 26.000 | 23.803 | 24.757 |
| GAPDH (692 Q7) | GAPDH (692 Q7) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 22.357 | #DZIEL01 | no cDNA | 22.607 | 23.567 | 23.233 | 23.780 |
| GAPDH (692 Q8) | GAPDH (692 Q8) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 22.443 | 21.977 | 23.430 | 22.707 | 23.410 | 24.297 | 25.493 |
| GAPDH (692 W0) | GAPDH (692 W0) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 23.617 | 22.503 | 22.200 | 22.443 | 22.903 | 24.193 | 25.200 |
| GAPDH (692 W1) | GAPDH (692 W1) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 23.450 | 22.010 | 21.960 | 22.833 | 23.620 | 24.613 | 24.757 |
| GAPDH (692 W2) | GAPDH (692 W2) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 22.607 | 22.177 | no cDNA | 22.370 | 23.273 | 23.673 | 25.367 |
| P450 (693 B5) | P450 (693 B5) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 27.450 | 28.680 | 27.657 | 27.517 | 29.230 | 31.210 | 32.880 |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name | Primer # | Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| P450 (693 B6) | P450 | (693) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 26.007 | 27.937 | 29.440 | 29.237 | 35.000 | 35.000 | no cDNA |
| P450 (693 B7) | P450 | (693) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 27.993 | 27.437 | 28.087 | 28.410 | 28.503 | 32.383 | no cDNA |
| P450 (693 Q6) | P450 | (693) | Q6) | Q2.1966 | 28.080 | 28.767 | 29.800 | 30.547 | 35.000 | 30.213 | 30.750 |
| P450 (693 Q7) | P450 | (693) | Q7) | Q2.1967 | 27.863 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 28.260 | 28.873 | 29.290 | 29.587 |
| P450 (693 Q8) | P450 | (693) | Q8) | Q2.1968 | 27.883 | 29.040 | 30.033 | 28.515 | 29.723 | 32.267 | 32.307 |
| P450 (693 W0) | P450 | (693) | W0) | Westar.2030 | 29.090 | 29.790 | 29.277 | 28.970 | 29.257 | 31.557 | 32.050 |
| P450 (693 W1) | P450 | (693) | W1) | Westar.2031 | 29.027 | 29.810 | 29.710 | 29.703 | 29.490 | 30.560 | 29.903 |
| P450 (693 W2) | P450 | (693) | W2) | Westar.2032 | 28.173 | 29.913 | no cDNA | 28.880 | 29.660 | 30.360 | 33.193 |
| GKTP (694 B5) | GKTP | (694) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 24.620 | 24.170 | 23.393 | 23.300 | 22.370 | 21.487 | 22.240 |
| GKTP (694 B6) | GKTP | (694) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 23.537 | 24.400 | 25.523 | 20.483 | 21.647 | 22.577 | no cDNA |
| GKTP (694 B7) | GKTP | (694) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 24.463 | 23.470 | 23.837 | 21.127 | 22.233 | 23.470 | no cDNA |
| GKTP (694 Q6) | GKTP | (694) | Q6) | Q2.1966 | 24.317 | 25.620 | 25.207 | 26.777 | 22.650 | 22.207 | 23.513 |
| GKTP (694 Q7) | GKTP | (694) | Q7) | Q2.1967 | 24.050 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 24.283 | 23.627 | 22.347 | 23.167 |
| GKTP (694 Q8) | GKTP | (694) | Q8) | Q2.1968 | 24.567 | 25.140 | 26.533 | 24.663 | 24.590 | 22.843 | 24.793 |
| GKTP (694 W0) | GKTP | (694) | W0) | Westar.2030 | 25.657 | 25.770 | 25.553 | 25.337 | 24.673 | 22.607 | 24.187 |
| GKTP (694 W1) | GKTP | (694) | W1) | Westar.2031 | 25.587 | 25.653 | 25.503 | 25.337 | 24.607 | 23.180 | 24.253 |
| GKTP (694 W2) | GKTP | (694) | W2) | Westar.2032 | 25.023 | 25.807 | no cDNA | 24.870 | 24.023 | 23.473 | 23.977 |
| PEPC (695 B5) | PEPC | (695) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 29.107 | 28.363 | 28.063 | 28.097 | 28.907 | 28.660 | 29.953 |
| PEPC (695 B6) | PEPC | (695) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 27.627 | 28.557 | 28.947 | 28.987 | 29.647 | 30.010 | no cDNA |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name Primer # | Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| PEPC (695 B7) | PEPC (695) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 28.473 | 27.253 | 28.610 | 28.950 | 28.793 | 29.970 | #DZIEL/0 ! |
| PEPC (695 Q6) | PEPC (695) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 25.587 | no cDNA | 27.043 | no cDNA | 26.503 | no cDNA | 25.200 |
| PEPC (695 Q7) | PEPC (695) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | no cDNA | no cDNA | no cDNA | 26.560 | no cDNA | 25.320 | no cDNA |
| PEPC (695 Q8) | PEPC (695) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 25.193 | no cDNA | 26.930 | no cDNA | 25.613 | no cDNA | 26.867 |
| PEPC (695 W0) | PEPC (695) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 28.377 | 29.543 | 29.700 | no cDNA | 26.213 | no cDNA | 28.810 |
| PEPC (695 W1) | PEPC (695) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 27.887 | 27.690 | 28.513 | 28.813 | 28.600 | 27.737 | 28.233 |
| PEPC (695 W2) | PEPC (695) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 27.040 | 29.207 | no cDNA | 28.943 | 27.983 | 27.887 | 28.953 |
| AGPase (696 B5) | AGPase (696) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 24.490 | 23.467 | 23.803 | 24.837 | 26.433 | 28.497 | 29.183 |
| AGPase (696 B6) | AGPase (696) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 23.280 | 22.943 | 24.307 | 28.877 | 30.750 | 30.673 | no cDNA |
| AGPase (696 B7) | AGPase (696) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 24.307 | 23.660 | 23.890 | 26.827 | 27.207 | 29.320 | no cDNA |
| AGPase (696 Q6) | AGPase (696) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 22.760 | 22.217 | 23.137 | 24.193 | 30.883 | 25.650 | 27.410 |
| AGPase (696 Q7) | AGPase (696) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 22.727 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 23.913 | 25.083 | 25.117 | 25.110 |
| AGPase (696 Q8) | AGPase (696) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 23.007 | 22.867 | 23.940 | 24.073 | 25.493 | 26.847 | 27.250 |
| AGPase (696 W0) | AGPase (696) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 23.440 | 23.650 | 23.373 | 23.520 | 24.257 | 26.970 | 26.293 |
| AGPase (696 W1) | AGPase (696) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 23.690 | 23.073 | 23.447 | 24.490 | 25.207 | 27.703 | 26.673 |
| AGPase (696 W2) | AGPase (696) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 22.677 | 23.340 | no cDNA | 23.713 | 24.297 | 25.010 | 27.977 |
| BcRK6 (697 B5) | BcRK6 (697) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 34.470 | 32.487 | 31.853 | 33.930 | 33.130 | 35.000 | 35.000 |
| BcRK6 (697 B6) | BcRK6 (697) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 33.597 | 32.373 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | no cDNA |
| BcRK6 (697 B7) | BcRK6 (697) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 35.000 | 33.540 | 32.003 | 32.823 | 34.097 | 35.000 | no cDNA |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| BcRK6 (697 Q6) | BcRK6 (697 Q6) | Q2 1966 | 33.380 | 33.093 | 33.437 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 33.617 | 35.000 |
| BcRK6 (697 Q7) | BcRK6 (697 Q7) | Q2 1967 | 31.813 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 32.693 | 33.643 | 33.303 | 35.000 |
| BcRK6 (697 Q8) | BcRK6 (697 Q8) | Q2 1968 | 32.200 | 31.653 | 32.920 | 32.933 | 34.583 | 35.000 | 35.000 |
| BcRK6 (697 W0) | BcRK6 (697 W0) | Westar 2030 | 35.000 | 34.373 | 34.383 | 34.857 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 |
| BcRK6 (697 W1) | BcRK6 (697 W1) | Westar 2031 | 35.000 | 34.450 | 34.113 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 |
| BcRK6 (697 W2) | BcRK6 (697 W2) | Westar 2032 | 34.850 | 35.000 | no cDNA | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 |
| SUC1 (698 B5) | SUC1 (698 B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 32.267 | 34.497 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | no cDNA |
| SUC1 (698 B6) | SUC1 (698 B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 32.020 | 31.993 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | no cDNA |
| SUC1 (698 B7) | SUC1 (698 B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 31.133 | 29.930 | 33.387 | 35.000 | 34.813 | 34.803 | no cDNA |
| SUC1 (698 Q6) | SUC1 (698 Q6) | Q2 1966 | 31.713 | 28.647 | 29.783 | 34.857 | 35.000 | 31.883 | 31.403 |
| SUC1 (698 Q7) | SUC1 (698 Q7) | Q2 1967 | 30.797 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 31.713 | 33.833 | 28.193 | 28.573 |
| SUC1 (698 Q8) | SUC1 (698 Q8) | Q2 1968 | 31.270 | 29.473 | 30.337 | 30.977 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 31.357 |
| SUC1 (698 W0) | SUC1 (698 W0) | Westar 2030 | 31.947 | 30.270 | 29.843 | 30.867 | 30.873 | 32.413 | 32.833 |
| SUC1 (698 W1) | SUC1 (698 W1) | Westar 2031 | 33.150 | 29.797 | 29.503 | 31.663 | 32.227 | 31.637 | 30.633 |
| SUC1 (698 W2) | SUC1 (698 W2) | Westar 2032 | 31.333 | 30.397 | #DZIEL0! | 32.607 | 32.920 | 32.377 | 35.000 |
| ARF2 (699 B5) | ARF2 (699 B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 26.983 | 26.717 | 26.370 | 28.270 | 27.957 | 27.917 | 28.340 |
| ARF2 (699 B6) | ARF2 (699 B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 26.257 | 25.763 | 30.383 | 28.307 | 30.953 | 31.850 | no cDNA |
| ARF2 (699 B7) | ARF2 (699 B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 27.607 | 25.837 | 26.093 | 27.717 | 28.140 | 30.193 | no cDNA |
| ARF2 (699 Q6) | ARF2 (699 Q6) | Q2 1966 | 28.477 | 28.033 | 28.670 | 31.023 | 32.257 | 29.217 | 30.027 |
| ARF2 (699 Q7) | ARF2 (699 Q7) | Q2 1967 | 28.190 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 29.150 | 29.607 | 28.617 | 29.730 |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name | Primer # | Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| ARF2 (699 Q8) | ARF2 | (699) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 28.093 | 28.237 | 30.313 | 28.793 | 29.817 | 30.530 | 31.420 |
| ARF2 (699 W0) | ARF2 | (699) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 30.313 | 29.657 | 29.587 | 29.357 | 30.067 | 30.667 | 30.437 |
| ARF2 (699 W1) | ARF2 | (699) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 30.013 | 29.073 | 29.213 | 30.003 | 30.040 | 30.683 | 30.590 |
| ARF2 (699 W2) | ARF2 | (699) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 29.333 | 29.160 | no cDNA | 29.743 | 30.617 | 30.353 | 31.120 |
| ACT7 (733 B5) | ACT7 | (733) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 25.550 | 24.060 | 23.727 | 25.397 | 25.290 | 25.820 | 26.377 |
| ACT7 (733 B6) | ACT7 | (733) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 24.163 | 23.810 | 26.860 | 25.667 | 26.817 | 27.317 | no cDNA |
| ACT7 (733 B7) | ACT7 | (733) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 25.580 | 23.600 | 23.233 | 24.947 | 25.283 | 26.923 | no cDNA |
| ACT7 (733 Q6) | ACT7 | (733) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 25.480 | 25.697 | 25.403 | 27.643 | 28.577 | 26.070 | 26.857 |
| ACT7 (733 Q7) | ACT7 | (733) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 25.230 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 25.313 | 25.870 | 25.610 | 26.800 |
| ACT7 (733 Q8) | ACT7 | (733) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 25.163 | 25.173 | 27.073 | 25.397 | 25.950 | 26.753 | 28.263 |
| ACT7 (733 W0) | ACT7 | (733) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 27.830 | 26.893 | 26.377 | 26.267 | 26.743 | 27.333 | 28.163 |
| ACT7 (733 W1) | ACT7 | (733) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 27.877 | 26.187 | 26.440 | 26.840 | 26.977 | 28.020 | 27.907 |
| ACT7 (733 W2) | ACT7 | (733) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 26.383 | 25.860 | #DZIEL/0! | 25.677 | 26.590 | 26.643 | 28.063 |
| UBC21 (734 B5) | UBC21 | (734) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 27.157 | 26.960 | 26.560 | 27.473 | 27.267 | 28.187 | 29.000 |
| UBC21 (734 B6) | UBC21 | (734) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 26.237 | 26.607 | 28.350 | 27.797 | 30.243 | 30.230 | no cDNA |
| UBC21 (734 B7) | UBC21 | (734) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 27.057 | 26.153 | 26.610 | 27.543 | 27.450 | 29.567 | no cDNA |
| UBC21 (734 Q6) | UBC21 | (734) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 26.737 | 27.640 | 27.990 | 29.083 | 30.683 | 28.040 | 28.863 |
| UBC21 (734 Q7) | UBC21 | (734) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 26.837 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 27.737 | 28.597 | 27.410 | 28.043 |
| UBC21 (734 Q8) | UBC21 | (734) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 26.460 | 27.210 | 28.783 | 27.730 | 28.473 | 28.523 | 29.403 |
| UBC21 (734 W0) | UBC21 | (734) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 27.740 | 27.673 | 28.020 | 27.837 | 28.220 | 28.500 | 28.697 |
| UBC21 (734 W1) | UBC21 | (734) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 27.717 | 27.433 | 27.700 | 28.333 | 28.463 | 28.710 | 29.017 |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| UBC21 (734 W2) | UBC21 (734 W2) | Westar 2032 | 27.123 | 27.493 | #DZIEL01 | 27.820 | 28.147 | 28.147 | 29.790 |
| PP2A (735 B5) | PP2A (735 B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 27.163 | 26.190 | 25.520 | 26.830 | 26.050 | 26.237 | 26.837 |
| PP2A (735 B6) | PP2A (735 B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 25.863 | 25.817 | 28.537 | 25.953 | 27.040 | 27.673 | no cDNA |
| PP2A (735 B7) | PP2A (735 B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 27.410 | 25.693 | 25.210 | 25.823 | 26.277 | 28.487 | no cDNA |
| PP2A (735 Q6) | PP2A (735 Q6) | Q2 1966 | 26.803 | 27.660 | 27.290 | 29.393 | 28.630 | 27.040 | 27.620 |
| PP2A (735 Q7) | PP2A (735 Q7) | Q2 1967 | 26.833 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 27.097 | 27.273 | 27.000 | 28.393 |
| PP2A (735 Q8) | PP2A (735 Q8) | Q2 1968 | 26.523 | 27.123 | 28.757 | 27.190 | 27.303 | 27.947 | 29.083 |
| PP2A (735 W0) | PP2A (735 W0) | Westar 2030 | 29.173 | 28.090 | 28.187 | 28.140 | 28.400 | 28.713 | 29.090 |
| PP2A (735 W1) | PP2A (735 W1) | Westar 2031 | 29.100 | 27.937 | 28.353 | 28.550 | 28.357 | 28.823 | 29.107 |
| PP2A (735 W2) | PP2A (735 W2) | Westar 2032 | 28.290 | 28.610 | #DZIEL01 | 27.893 | 28.793 | 28.427 | 29.450 |
| TIP41 (736 B5) | TIP41 (736 B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 29.100 | 28.447 | 27.917 | 28.833 | 28.600 | 28.867 | 29.383 |
| TIP41 (736 B6) | TIP41 (736 B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 27.577 | 27.610 | 29.573 | 28.053 | 29.613 | 30.270 | no cDNA |
| TIP41 (736 B7) | TIP41 (736 B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 29.063 | 27.453 | 28.017 | 27.933 | 28.480 | 29.813 | no cDNA |
| TIP41 (736 Q6) | TIP41 (736 Q6) | Q2 1966 | 28.523 | 28.340 | 29.083 | 30.070 | 30.330 | 28.420 | 29.713 |
| TIP41 (736 Q7) | TIP41 (736 Q7) | Q2 1967 | 27.847 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 28.387 | 28.620 | 28.627 | 29.067 |
| TIP41 (736 Q8) | TIP41 (736 Q8) | Q2 1968 | 27.913 | 28.093 | 29.893 | 28.940 | 28.880 | 28.693 | 31.903 |
| TIP41 (736 W0) | TIP41 (736 W0) | Westar 2030 | 29.433 | 29.480 | 29.323 | 28.660 | 29.917 | 29.163 | 29.700 |
| TIP41 (736 W1) | TIP41 (736 W1) | Westar 2031 | 29.090 | 28.493 | 28.423 | 28.913 | 28.947 | 28.827 | 29.700 |
| TIP41 (736 W2) | TIP41 (736 W2) | Westar 2032 | 28.263 | 28.663 | no cDNA | 28.757 | 28.707 | 28.687 | 30.030 |
| UBC9 (737 B5) | UBC9 (737 B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 22.280 | 22.023 | 21.743 | 22.730 | 23.207 | 23.177 | 23.733 |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name | Primer # | Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| UBC9 (737 B6) | UBC9 | (737) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 21.383 | 21.890 | 23.087 | 23.323 | 24.170 | 24.520 | no cDNA |
| UBC9 (737 B7) | UBC9 | (737) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 22.333 | 21.723 | 22.000 | 23.283 | 23.173 | 24.273 | no cDNA |
| UBC9 (737 Q6) | UBC9 | (737) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 22.800 | 22.700 | 22.990 | 23.990 | 25.077 | 23.123 | 23.850 |
| UBC9 (737 Q7) | UBC9 | (737) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 22.340 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 22.917 | 23.623 | 22.687 | 23.660 |
| UBC9 (737 Q8) | UBC9 | (737) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 22.427 | 22.483 | 23.533 | 22.820 | 23.677 | 23.853 | 24.157 |
| UBC9 (737 W0) | UBC9 | (737) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 23.800 | 22.810 | 23.093 | 22.723 | 23.410 | 23.610 | 23.930 |
| UBC9 (737 W1) | UBC9 | (737) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 23.490 | 22.960 | 23.133 | 23.403 | 23.567 | 23.723 | 23.830 |
| UBC9 (737 W2) | UBC9 | (737) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 22.630 | 23.033 | no cDNA | 23.020 | 23.550 | 23.480 | 24.507 |
| SAND (738 B5) | SAND (2) | (738) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 27.927 | 27.280 | 26.907 | 27.380 | 27.543 | 27.343 | 27.650 |
| SAND (738 B6) | SAND (2) | (738) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 27.037 | 26.740 | 27.947 | 27.130 | 27.927 | 27.973 | no cDNA |
| SAND (738 B7) | SAND (2) | (738) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 28.060 | 26.833 | 26.893 | 27.500 | 27.050 | 28.540 | no cDNA |
| SAND (738 Q6) | SAND (2) | (738) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 28.100 | 27.680 | 28.013 | 29.020 | 28.627 | 27.810 | 28.250 |
| SAND (738 Q7) | SAND (2) | (738) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 27.743 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 27.863 | 28.143 | 27.693 | 28.200 |
| SAND (738 Q8) | SAND (2) | (738) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 27.823 | 27.777 | 28.793 | 28.003 | 28.117 | 28.373 | 29.133 |
| SAND (738 W0) | SAND (2) | (738) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 28.550 | 27.563 | 28.127 | 27.720 | 28.240 | 27.703 | 27.980 |
| SAND (738 W1) | SAND (2) | (738) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 28.287 | 27.513 | 27.873 | 28.133 | 27.803 | 27.943 | 28.130 |
| SAND (738 W2) | SAND (2) | (738) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 27.493 | 28.143 | no cDNA | 27.840 | 27.697 | 27.887 | 28.613 |
| UPI (739 B5) | UPI (2) | (739) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 29.420 | 28.950 | 28.107 | 28.900 | 28.037 | 27.690 | 28.170 |
| UPI (739 B6) | UPI (2) | (739) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 28.757 | 28.613 | 30.457 | 27.710 | 28.573 | 28.937 | no cDNA |

Supplementary Table S2—continued

| Gene name Primer # Bio Rep | Gene name | Primer # | Bio Rep | Variety | 10 day | 15 day | 20 day | 25 day | 30 day | 35 day | 40 day |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| UPI (739 B7) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 30.027 | 28.287 | 27.997 | 27.590 | 27.847 | 29.497 | no cDNA |
| UPI (739 Q6) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 29.447 | 29.503 | 29.610 | 31.270 | 29.623 | 28.140 | 28.853 |
| UPI (739 Q7) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 29.547 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 29.037 | 28.870 | 28.130 | 28.963 |
| UPI (739 Q8) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 29.417 | 29.590 | 30.757 | 29.637 | 28.910 | 28.990 | 30.123 |
| UPI (739 W0) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 30.767 | 29.517 | 29.643 | 29.683 | 29.683 | 29.060 | 29.157 |
| UPI (739 W1) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 30.747 | 29.793 | 29.730 | 30.153 | 29.830 | 29.237 | 29.753 |
| UPI (739 W2) | <i>UPI</i> (2) | (739) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 30.213 | 30.117 | no cDNA | 29.700 | 29.677 | 29.257 | 29.840 |
| UP2 (740 B5) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | B5) | Bronowski 1805 | 29.593 | 27.963 | 27.737 | 28.373 | 28.153 | 28.467 | 29.073 |
| UP2 (740 B6) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | B6) | Bronowski 1806 | 28.273 | 27.667 | 28.763 | 28.730 | 29.653 | 29.933 | no cDNA |
| UP2 (740 B7) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | B7) | Bronowski 1807 | 29.190 | 28.207 | 27.783 | 28.513 | 29.010 | 30.157 | no cDNA |
| UP2 (740 Q6) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | Q6) | Q2 1966 | 28.637 | 28.033 | 28.333 | 29.343 | 29.870 | 27.610 | 29.020 |
| UP2 (740 Q7) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | Q7) | Q2 1967 | 27.780 | no cDNA | no cDNA | 27.803 | 28.173 | 27.727 | 28.577 |
| UP2 (740 Q8) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | Q8) | Q2 1968 | 27.797 | 27.913 | 28.807 | 28.103 | 28.340 | 28.420 | 29.363 |
| UP2 (740 W0) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | W0) | Westar 2030 | 29.657 | 28.907 | 29.520 | 28.817 | 29.080 | 29.067 | 29.530 |
| UP2 (740 W1) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | W1) | Westar 2031 | 29.097 | 28.023 | 28.163 | 28.963 | 28.777 | 28.327 | 29.240 |
| UP2 (740 W2) | <i>UP2</i> | (740) | W2) | Westar 2032 | 27.833 | 28.303 | no cDNA | 28.780 | 28.647 | 28.457 | 29.493 |

Supplementary Table S3. In the test for statistical significance, red and green coefficients displayed positive and negative correlations, respectively; non-colored coefficients statistically non-significant

| Genotype | <i>ACCase</i> | <i>α-CT</i> | <i>β-CT</i> | <i>BC</i> | <i>SAD</i> | <i>FAD2</i> | <i>FAD3</i> | <i>FAD6</i> | <i>MCMT</i> | <i>KASI</i> | <i>KAS2</i> | <i>KAS3</i> |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Bronowski | -0.76 | -0.77 | -0.85 | -0.83 | -0.73 | -0.84 | -0.77 | -0.84 | -0.79 | -0.63 | -0.85 | -0.01 |
| Q2 | -0.72 | -0.78 | -0.74 | -0.73 | -0.81 | -0.62 | -0.67 | -0.6 | -0.74 | -0.8 | -0.86 | -0.13 |
| Westar | -0.83 | -0.91 | -0.83 | -0.94 | -0.91 | -0.86 | -0.88 | -0.91 | -0.9 | -0.89 | -0.95 | 0.27 |
| Genotype | <i>FAEI</i> | <i>HD/KACD</i> | <i>KCR2</i> | <i>FatA</i> | <i>FatB</i> | <i>DGAT2</i> | <i>LPAAT</i> | <i>AAPT1</i> | <i>Napin</i> | <i>Coleosin</i> | <i>Oleosin</i> | <i>Cruciferin</i> |
| Bronowski | -0.79 | -0.84 | -0.84 | -0.81 | -0.23 | -0.73 | 0.39 | -0.64 | -0.80 | -0.05 | -0.15 | -0.63 |
| Q2 | -0.72 | -0.82 | -0.8 | -0.79 | 0.36 | -0.72 | 0.72 | 0.34 | -0.52 | -0.52 | -0.44 | -0.57 |
| Westar | -0.64 | -0.91 | -0.92 | -0.89 | 0.08 | -0.35 | 0.62 | 0.36 | -0.56 | 0.04 | -0.03 | -0.09 |