

The 2009 Penn State Energy Crops Field Display

The Energy Crops Field Display is now open to visitors – please stop by during daylight hours to see a variety of energy crops in production. Visitors are asked to walk only along the edges of the fields, and be careful of any farming operations that may be occurring in the area. A brochure (available on this website as well as at the field display site) provides descriptions of the various crops being grown.

Background Info:

The Penn State Energy Crops Field Display is a dynamic display of field-scale production of energy crops in Pennsylvania. The display is intended to meet several objectives:

1. **Education** – the crop displays allow farmers and interested persons to see the crops as they would be grown in Pennsylvania, and learn about the potential for these crops to be part of the state’s bioenergy industry.
1. **Research** – the crop displays are used to investigate the actual performance of these crops for energy production. Some of the crops are very new to the area, and little is known about their performance under Pennsylvania conditions, or the appropriate use of equipment and cultural methods to grow the crops optimally.
1. **Testing** – Plans at the university include the production of bioenergy to meet campus needs – including growing oil crops to be transformed into biodiesel at the university’s new pilot-scale plant. The field display allows for objective assessment to determine which crops and growing systems will fit best with the university’s needs.

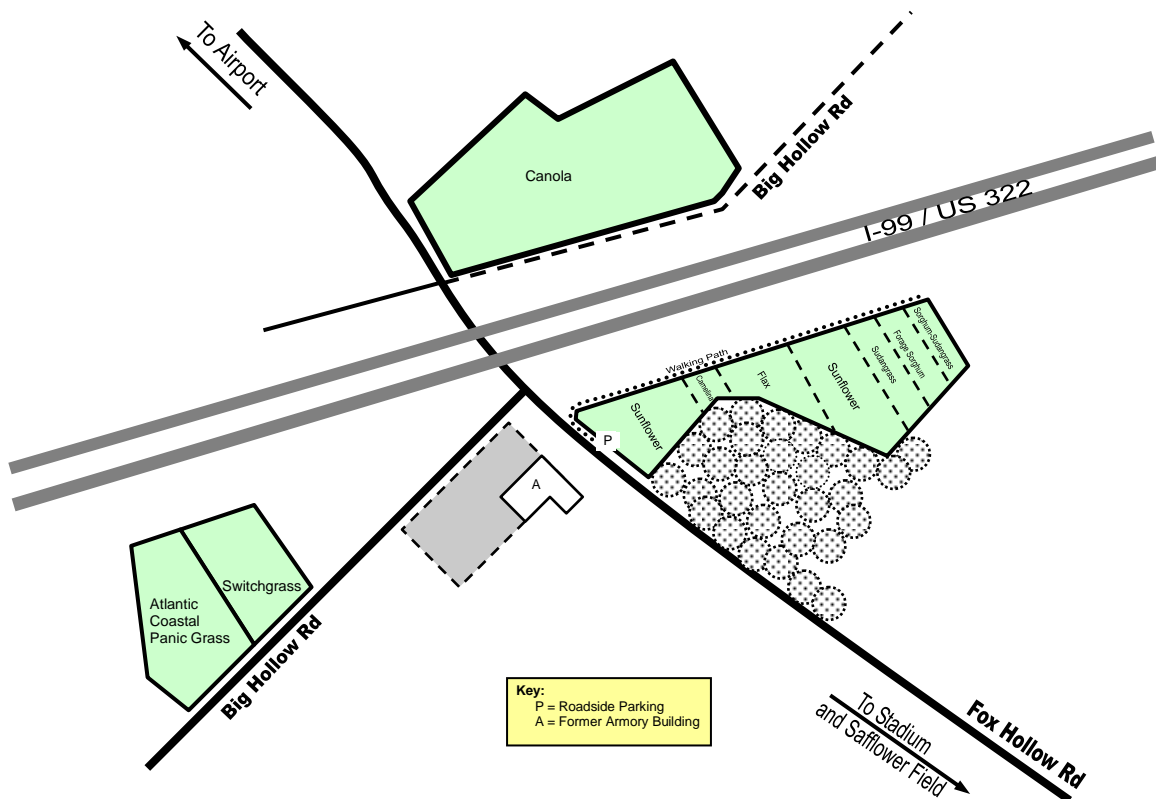
Crops Grown:

The energy crops field display changes every year – annual crops are rotated, new crops are introduced, and perennial crops develop and mature. This year’s display crops include 11 different crops – some which will be familiar to many, but some which are fairly unusual in this area. Crops include:

Crop	Approximate Sowing Date	Approximate Harvest Date	Primary Energy Use	Typical Yield
Atlantic Coastal Panic Grass	June 2008	Winter	Biomass / Combustion or Ethanol	Similar to switchgrass
Camelina	Early June	End August	Oil / Biodiesel	1 ton oilseed per acre
Canola	Late April	End August	Oil / Biodiesel	1 ton oilseed per acre

Flax	Mid May	September	Oil / Biodiesel	1 ton oilseed per acre
Forage Sorghum	Mid June	September	Biomass / Combustion or Ethanol	7.5 tons per acre
Safflower	Mid May	September	Oil / Biodiesel	1 ton oilseed per acre
Sorghum-Sudan Grass	Mid June	September	Biomass / Combustion or Ethanol	2.5 tons per acre
Sudangrass	Mid June	September	Biomass / Combustion or Ethanol	2.5 tons per acre
Sunflower	Late June	October	Oil / Biodiesel	100 gallons oil per acre
Sweet Stem Sorghum	Mid June	September	Sugar / Ethanol	2 tons sugar per acre
Switchgrass	June 2008	Winter	Biomass / Combustion or Ethanol	Up to 5 tons per acre

Demo Site Map:



For additional information see:

<http://downloads.cas.psu.edu/RenewableEnergy/events08/BioenergyFieldDisplayBrochure709.pdf>