



Title: *“Yellow Hook (1)”*

Description: Canola crop, South Canterbury.

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Hook, St Andrews, South Canterbury, November 2021.

Sustainability? I was also attracted to this canola (oil seed rape) crop at Hook, 15 km south of Timaru, because of its arresting colour. The canola crop shocks many people into seeing rural landscapes for their sheer beauty – five cars stopped on SH1 to photograph it during my first 20-minute attempt.

Too many New Zealanders take the farming landscapes for granted and wonder why tourists flock here to see them. If we just focus our identity and wonderment on the ‘natural environment’ found in National Parks and Department of Conservation’s estate, we will care less for the rural production landscapes where biodiversity can naturally flourish in the warmer and more fertile ecosystems. Almost two thirds of New Zealand’s land is used for farming, horticulture, viticulture and forestry, the ‘biological industries’ that underpin New Zealand’s economy. I think they are beautiful landscapes that are now part of us as New Zealanders, as well as providing homes for many amazing plants and animals that keep our ecosystems and communities going.

This is one of 6 images of the canola crops presented in this gallery (HM#001 – HM#006). I was attracted to this canola (oil seed rape) crop at Hook, 15 km south of Timaru, because of its arresting colour. My thoughts on the importance of appreciating our rural landscapes is outlined in the description for the image “Yellow Hook (1)” and “Paeora Estuary”; and its role in crop rotations is outlined in the description for “Yellow Hook (2)”. The role of plant selection and Genetic Modification is explored in “Yellow Hook (3)” and aesthetic value in and “Paeora” and rural decline in “Barn on the brae”.

Photo notes: I’m colour-blind in the blue and green parts of light’s spectrum. Perhaps that’s why yellow is a thrill for me – it never hides! This photograph was taken just after dawn.

This is my third attempt to capture my feeling for the yellow texture of the canola crop, this time at dawn. I stitched together 17 individual focus-stacked images, each with 3-8 exposures at successively distant focus planes. Each exposure was 1/10s, 42 mm focal length, f/11, ISO-100.

This is one of 6 photographs of the canola crops presented in this gallery (HM#001 – HM#006). Let's hope I have now got the yellow out of my systems for a while!

Digital specs: 18,254 x 5,142 pixels (94 MP).

Key words: Farming, rural landscape, canola, oil-seed rape, cropping, tourism, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

Price: \$300 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image.

Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, and to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *Pareora Catchment Society*.

I recommend that the donation goes to the *Pareora Catchment Society* because it is a not-for-profit coalition of farmers and local citizens who are working to improve water quality and biodiversity in the Pareora estuary and river.

Image Ref: HM#001 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Henrik Moller

29 November 2021.