This Season's Seashore Mallow Harvest

Procedures that maximize yield and minimize costs need to be developed as part of the introduction of a new crop. Economic analysis dictates that the harvesting be mechanical and that it doesn't require expensive unique equipment. These photographs show the current techniques we use to harvest Seashore Mallow for seeds. The blue swathing machine is a slightly modified well-used Ford mower and stem crusher. The red combine is a Massey Ferguson 510 with a hydraulically driven pickup reel bolted on to the sickle bar of a small grain head.

These seeds have ~18 % oil by weight and the residue after oil extraction is about 32% protein. The oils can be used to make biodiesel and the residue is a rich protein source that can be used for animal feed mixtures. The "straw" is a cellulose feed-stock for ethanol, while the large perennial root system is a carbon sink in the soil.