

# Brassica Biofumigant Cover Crops

## Caliente™



Photo: JD Duff

## Management

The crop benefits from additional fertiliser and irrigation to optimise its performance as a biofumigant. Ammonium sulphate at 120kg/ha 3–5 weeks after planting is recommended.

## Potential uses

- Biofumigant
  - Suppression of *Sclerotium rolfsii* in Winter/ Spring and Summer plantings, *Macrophomina phaseolina* in a Summer planting<sup>1</sup>
  - Range of nematodes<sup>2</sup> and soilborne pathogens (including *Verticillium dahliae*, *Rhizoctonia* spp., *Pythium* spp., *Fusarium* spp.)<sup>2</sup>
- Green manure crop
- Prevent soil loss as a result of high rainfall events
- Nursery to beneficial insects

## Insect and disease issues

- **Significant insect pests include:** Cabbage cluster caterpillar, Cabbage centre grub and Aphids
- **Other common insect pests include:** Diamondback moth, Whitefly, Thrips, Rutherglen bugs, Leaf minor, Jassids and Flea beetles
- **Significant diseases include:** Downy mildew and Powdery mildew
- **Other common diseases include:** White blister, Bacterial brown rot, Virus and Phytoplasma

Refer to the APVMA for information about chemical control of pests. Always read and understand the label before using any chemical.

**Botanical name** *Brassica juncea*

**Synonyms** Indian Mustard

**Seeding rate** 10kg/ha

### Growth habit

- Grows to 1m tall or more
- Deep tap root
- Bright yellow flowers
- Biomass production up to 140t/ha fresh weight

**Planting** All-season crop but greatest biomass during cooler time of the year

**Incorporation**

- 44–50 days in Summer
- 98 days in Winter

<sup>1</sup> Department of Agriculture and Fisheries <sup>2</sup> Other sources