

Brassica Biofumigant Cover Crops

Management

The crop benefits from moderate 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 *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and *Sclerotium rolfii* with a Summer planting, *Macrophomina phaseolina* in Winter/Spring and Summer plantings and *Rhizoctonia solani* in Summer planting¹
 - Suppression of *Fusarium*, *Phytophthora*, *Pythium*, *Verticillium*²
 - Suppression of Root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.)²
- Green manure crop
- Prevent soil loss through rainfall runoff
- Nursery for beneficial insects

Insect and disease issues

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

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

¹ Department of Agriculture and Fisheries ² Other sources

BQ Mulch[®]



Botanical name *Brassica nigra* 25%
Brassica carinata 75%

Synonyms Black mustard 25%
Ethiopian mustard 75%

Seeding rate 10kg/ha

Growth habit

- Medium height crop
- Multiple stems
- High frost tolerance
- Biomass production up to 94t/ha fresh weight in Winter

Planting All year round but greatest biomass during cooler time of the year

Incorporation

- 44 days in Summer
- 60 days in Winter