



# a'Round The Traps'

August 2022



## Cover Crops

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### Kojonup region image from The Introvigne Family - Canola

Not many seasons are ever perfect and the hard work that is put into soil preparation is very important. Dollar efficiency is everything to a farmers NETT profits and a crop that is set up with both Granule and Liquid combinations is able to perform at it's best.

Plants respond better with complexed elements that are balanced. Applying inputs at the correct timing, you can truly develop crops with all the vigor, with balanced nutrition and be able to achieve the best germination and growth possible in conjunction with your soils that you have to work with, plus be capable of buffering whatever climatic conditions are thrown at it to a very large degree. Do you think these tap roots will be able to access sub soil moisture should the rain not be there for a soft finish?? On the other hand, take a look at the mass of soil attached to the plant around the crown, as this is the zone in which fertiliser uptake is derived most effectively. It is not just all about water..... These plants are geared and setup for a massive flowering and pollination event, therefore we will see increased pod numbers with a greater quantity and quality of seed with a higher oil content, that's what is expected and what happens out in the field when no shortcuts are taken.



## Cover Crops

Cover crops are now becoming more and more part of the farm rotation, being a low risk, cover crops provide additional diversity for soil biology, additional feed for stock, weed suppression, using the maximum moisture available to keep ground cover, especially going into summer and the list of benefits goes on. Cover cropping is a practice for most farming operations these days, especially if you are mixed farming that incorporates livestock. It is more important to use all the tools available to you in your operation, especially with availability of farming inputs becoming so much more expensive and difficult to secure.

Tillage Radish in North West Victoria using its taproot in breaking open a hard pan, pushing through compaction layers in the soil profile, accessing additional soil moisture and nutrients whilst providing an abundance of feed as part of a multi species crop. Other benefits of what is happening in this situation is also providing additional oxygen in the soils profile, creating more friability and being able to hold onto more water for subsequent crops.

We can certainly put you in contact with the best people in the industry who supply various options that best suit your operation.

Typical cover crop mixes include Sorghum, Millet, Buckwheat, Turnip, Radish, Mungbeans, Cowpeas, Safflower, Mustards, Quinoa, Clovers, Peas, Lentils, Oats, Sunflower, Vetch, Chicory, Plantain and Lucerne just to mention some of the options and combinations.

Just like preparation for any other crop, Soil Testing is recommended to set the crop up as best as possible for any Soil Amendments, fertiliser down the tube, nutritional seed coatings applied, before 1-2 situation specific foliar applications are applied to keep the crop performing at its peak.

Preparation is now underway for various summer crops, including Maize for the Dairy industries!



## Mineral Element Focus Boron (B)

Boron is essential for seed set and germination, sugar translocations, cell growth and protein formation. Boron deficiencies causes poor cellular growth, sterile heads, blotching on skins and hollowing in stems. Calcium efficiency is severely reduced leading to increased disease and rot pressure. Selenium is an essential cellular health antioxidant that improves the overall performance of Boron and has the demonstrated effect of improving flowering, fertility and seed set. Most heavily flowering crops, like brassicas and legumes, have an elevated demand for selenium, especially in acidic or sulphurised soil profiles. Ferti-Boron12Selenium is formulated to provide these benefits and many of our other products as well.

