

EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE



Pest and Disease Concerns

A major barrier to the successful implementation of brassica cover crops is concern about pests and disease. Brassicas are susceptible to many pathogens and pests that can limit yield and crop quality.

The majority of cover croppers, the 72.7% that did not implement brassicas as cover crops, stated that they did not use brassicas due to the following top motives: risk of pests and disease (59.4%), contentment with different cover crops (31.3%), being unfamiliar with the use of brassica cover crops (28.1), and not being able to successfully fit brassicas in a rotation in terms of timing and variation (25%).

Producers were asked to report their top three disease and pest concerns in this survey. The top three disease concerns were alternaria leaf spot, followed by black rot, then powdery mildew.

