

# **Integrating a Winter Rapeseed Cover Crop into a Barley-Potato Rotation. (C03-sexton074453-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

There is increasing interest among researchers and potato farmers in the potential use of some members of the Brassicaceae family as cover crops for suppressing a broad spectrum of soil pathogens. In northern Maine the dominant crop rotation is small grains followed by potatoes. Given the short growing season, there appears to be little scope for establishing a useful cover crop after the small grain harvest. On the other hand, farmers are not inclined to forgo the limited cash flow attained from production of small grains in favor of large-scale production of cover crops. One way to maintain cash flow while producing a cover crop would be to intercrop the Brassicaceae with a small grain. In order to evaluate this option, two on-farm trials and one experiment station trial were initiated. 'Dwarf Essex' winter rapeseed was sole cropped, interseeded with barley, relay seeded into standing barley at tiller and soft dough stages, and sown after barley. Sole cropped barley was also included in the trials as a control. This is a work in progress, data on barley yield and 'Dwarf Essex' biomass production will be presented.

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