



The Better Brassica Roadshow: a model success?

The 2005 Better Brassica Project has become somewhat of an industry model, of a growers' roadshow and information blitz with the power to transform research into practice.

Over five weeks last year, 11 Better Brassica Project workshops were held in the main production areas in every state and attracted 193 growers.

Brassicicas are one of the most widely researched vegetables in Australia. Internationally significant research has been led by state research agencies and supported by AUSVEG, grower levies and HAL (Horticulture Australia). In 2005 they developed several hygiene and management strategies for clubroot, plus a laboratory-based diagnostic test which helps identify sources of clubroot contamination.

In a workshop follow-up, two thirds of the growers who had attended said it had encouraged them to make changes to combat white blister and clubroot. One third of the growers who hadn't attended had changed their practices because of the special information mailout sent to all 1170 brassica growers. Vegetable seedling nursery managers were targeted with a specially produced publication and poster.

Changes included planting new varieties, improving farm hygiene, changing chemicals and irrigation practices, and changing the soil pH. Some growers decided to check their nursery's hygiene protocols for the first time.

The growers said they liked receiving research findings as a complete management package.

Information – including a national newsletter on brassica pests and diseases - is available from Caroline Donald at the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Knoxfield on 03 9210 9299; and vegetable Industry Development Officers in all states. 🌱

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Over five weeks in 2005, 11 Better Brassica Project workshops attracted 193 growers in the main production areas in every state.
- Two thirds of the growers who attended made changes to combat white blister and clubroot because of the workshops.

- One third of the growers who hadn't attended a workshop had made changes because of the mailed out information.

For More Information: Visit www.ausveg.com.au/levy-payers/login.cfm
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