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Cover Crop Alternatives for Nematode Management in Washington Vineyards

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The Northern Root-Knot Nematode

Northern Root-Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne hapla*)

- Soil-borne microscopic roundworm
- Adult *M. hapla* are sedentary endoparasites
- Second-stage juveniles are mobile in the soil



Second-Stage Juvenile *M. hapla*; root galls on *V. vinifera*; Adult *M. hapla*, stained red

Current Management Approaches

Pre-plant Strategies – Chemical Fumigation

- Environmental concerns
- Cost and labor intensive
- No lasting effects

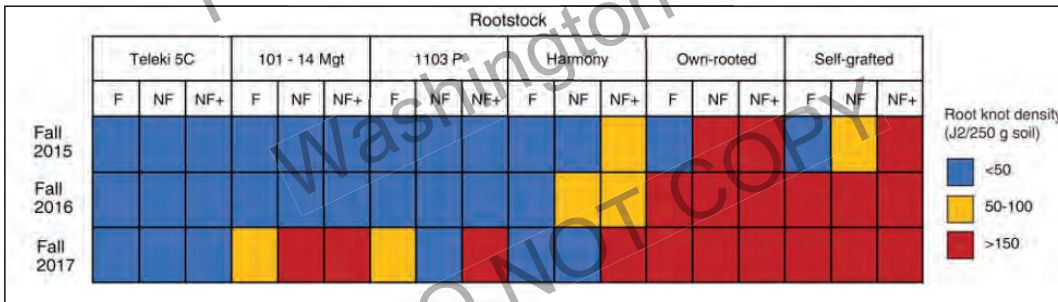
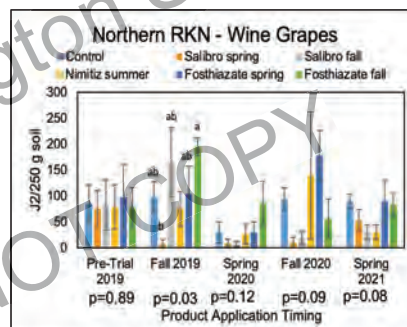
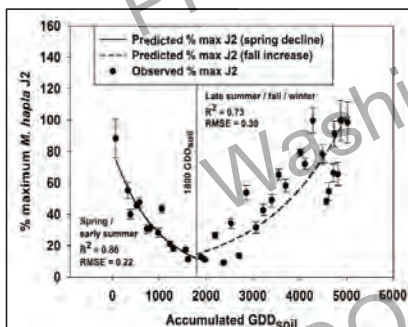


Photo: Michelle Moyer, Good Fruit Grower, East et al., 2021.

Current Management Approaches

Post Plant Strategies - Nematicides

- Require biological timing
- Short-term studies show no differences from untreated controls
- Environment and human applicator concerns



East et al., 2019, Plant Dis., 105:966-971; Moyer et al., 2021 Unpublished data; Photo: Katherine East

Pre-Plant Alternative Option : What is Litchi Tomato

Litchi tomato (*Solanum sisymbriifolium*)

- Contains root exudates that trigger hatching
- *M. hapla* cannot feed or establish a feeding site on its roots



Photo Credit: (1) Michelle Mover

Pre-Plant Alternative Option : Why Litchi Tomato?

Trap crop exploration of a potato pest

- Biologically similar to RKN
- Successful results without the use of chemicals

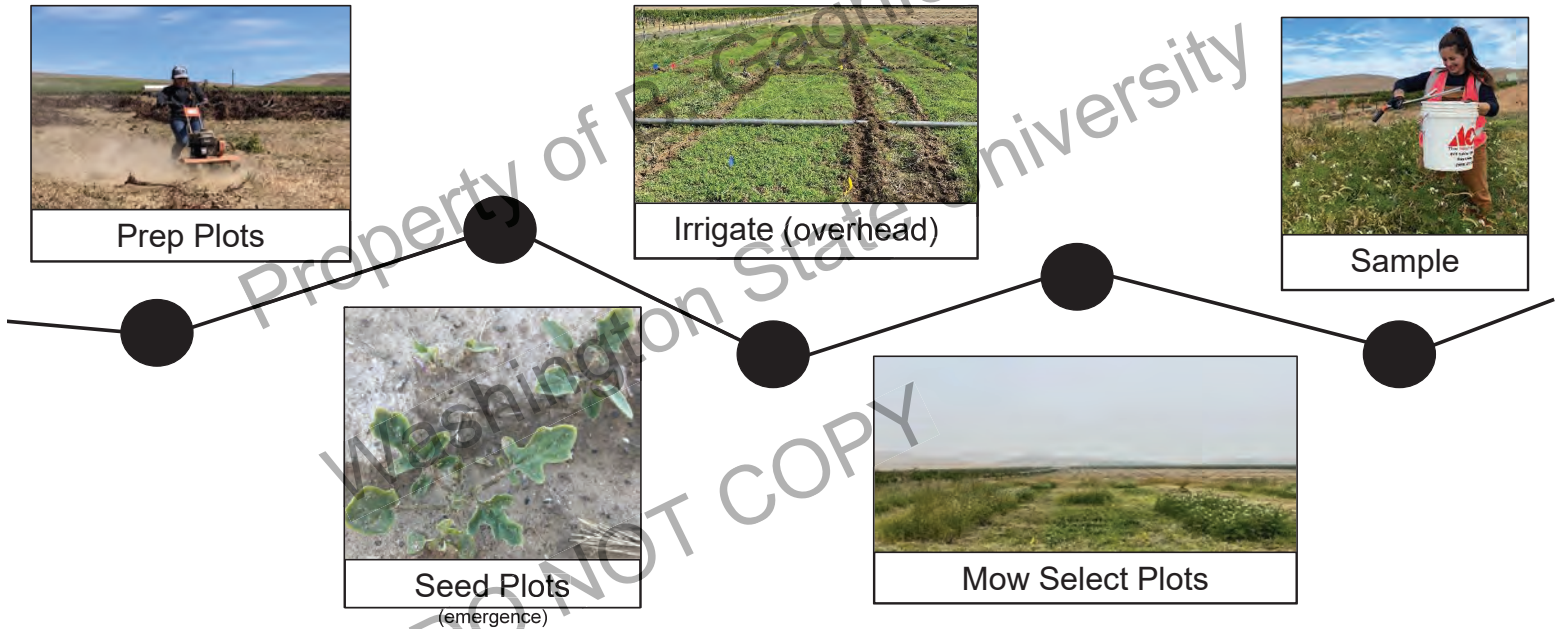


Effect of litchi tomato on PCN reproduction in a subsequent potato crop

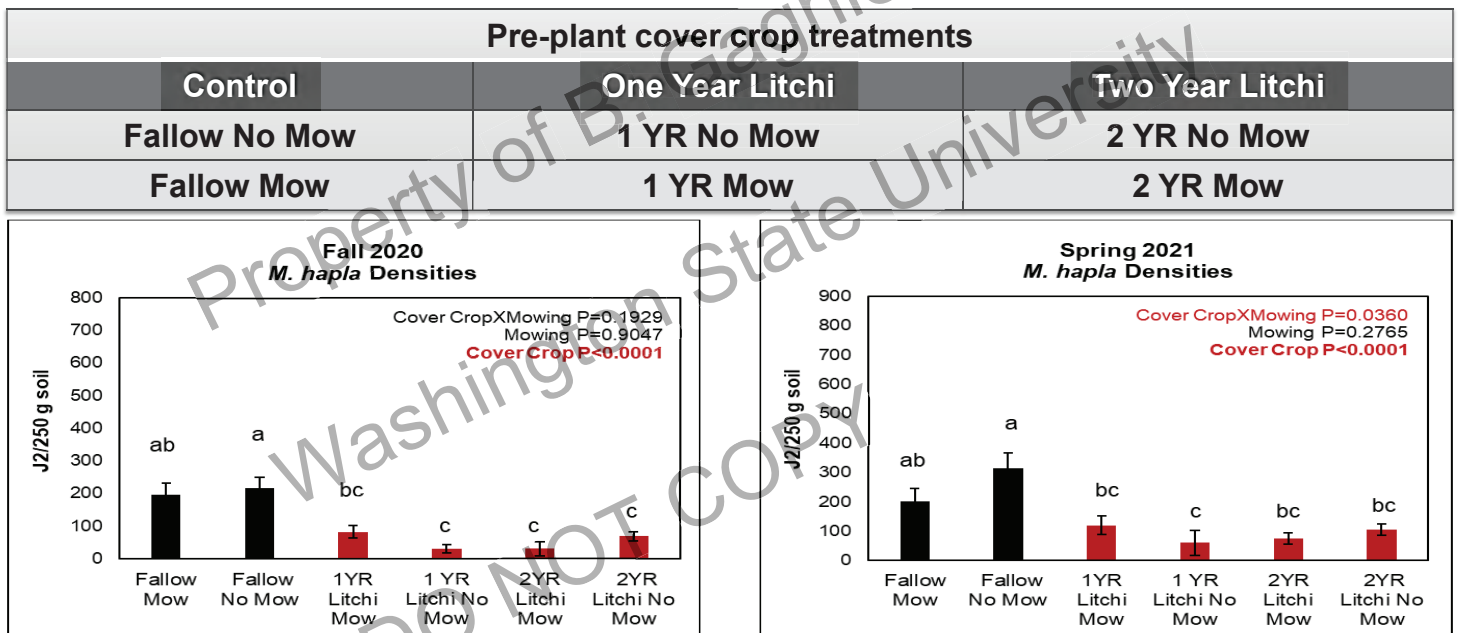
Treatment	PCN Cyst*
Potato after litchi tomato	1
Potato after fallow	271
Potato after potato	1021

* Average of six replicates

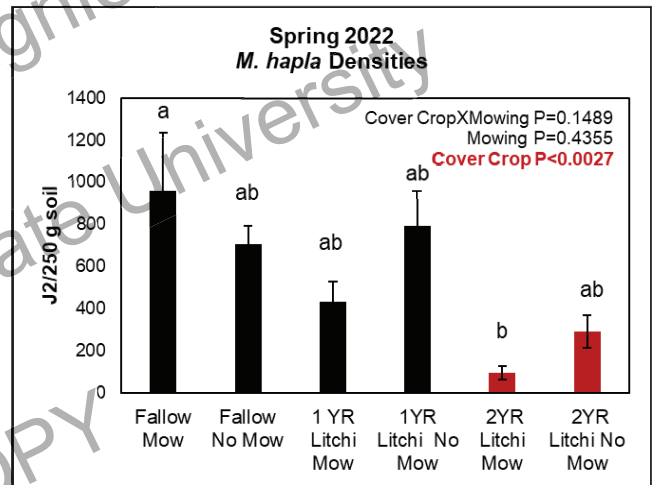
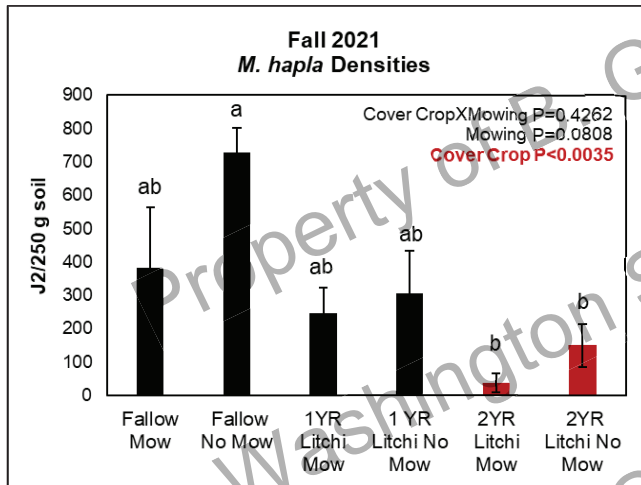
Pre-Plant Alternative Option : What We Did



Pre-Plant Alternative Option : What We are Seeing



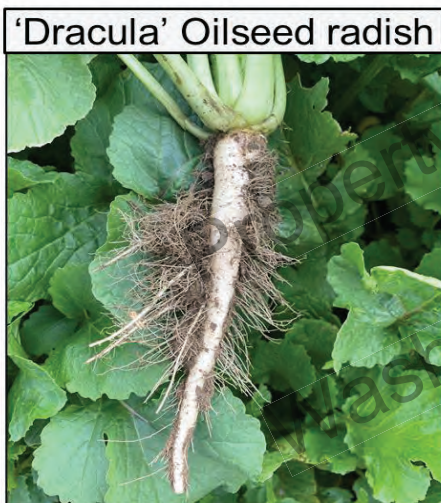
Pre-Plant Alternative Option : What We are Seeing



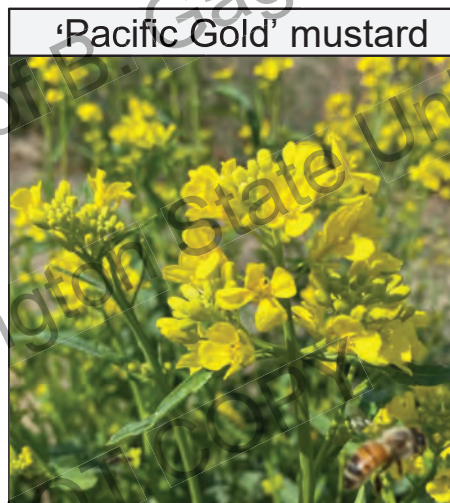
Litchi tomato is successful in reducing *M. hapla* relative to an untreated control

Statistics: JMP ANOVA and Tukeys HSD

Post Plant Alternative Option : Nematicide Replacement Cover Crops



Raphanus sativus var. *oleiformis* 'Dracula' (Trap Crop)

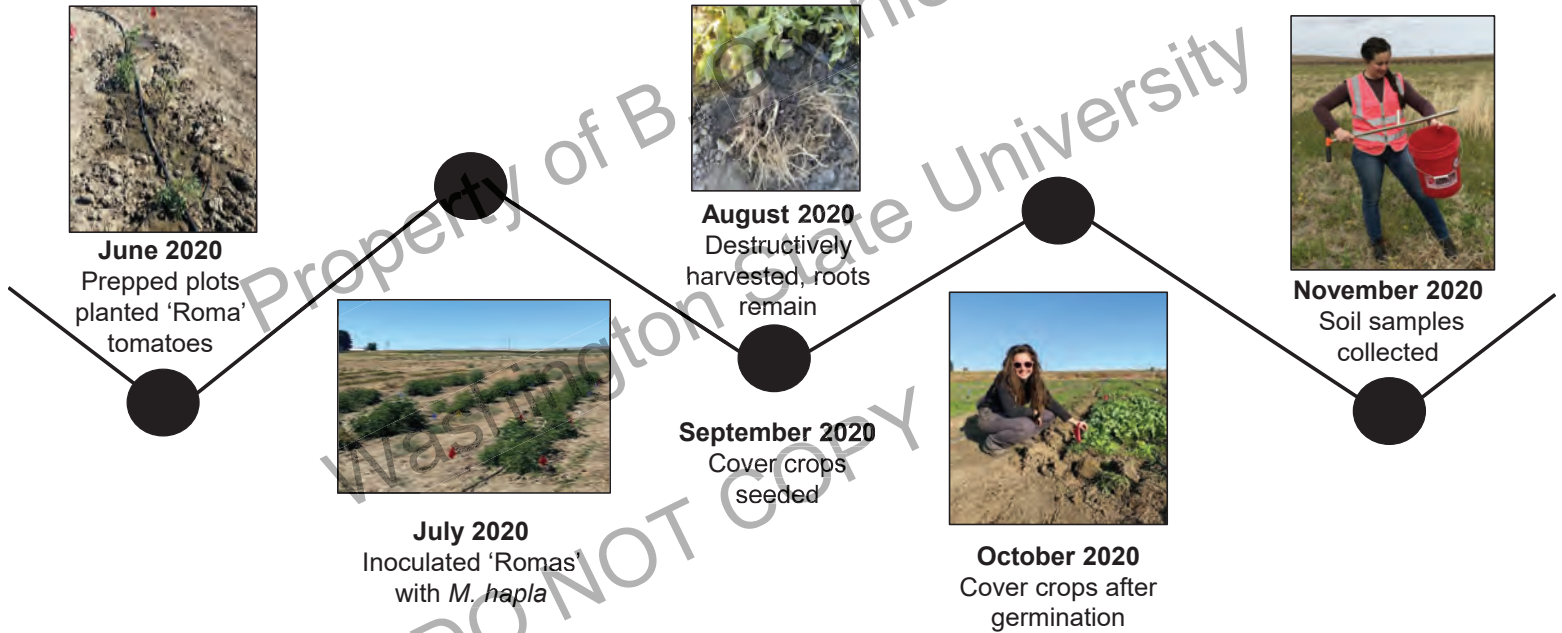


Brassica juncea (Biofumigant)

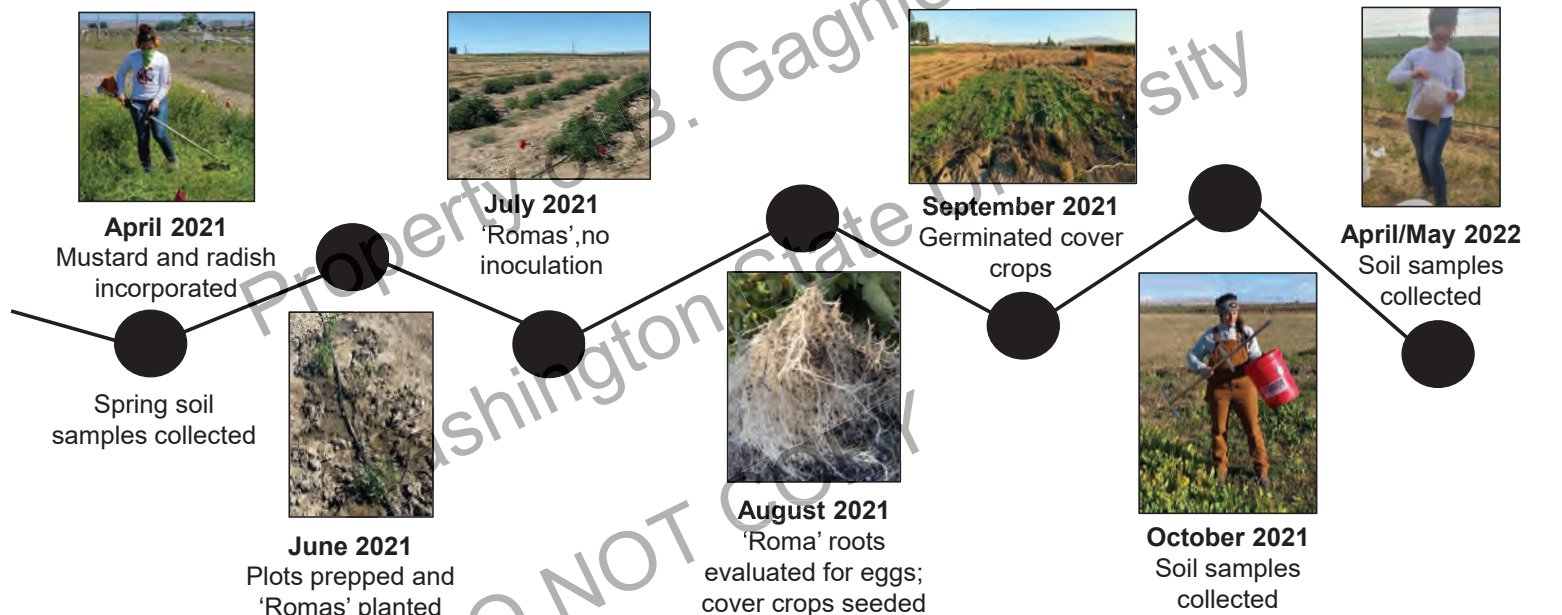


Trifolium repens (Non-host)

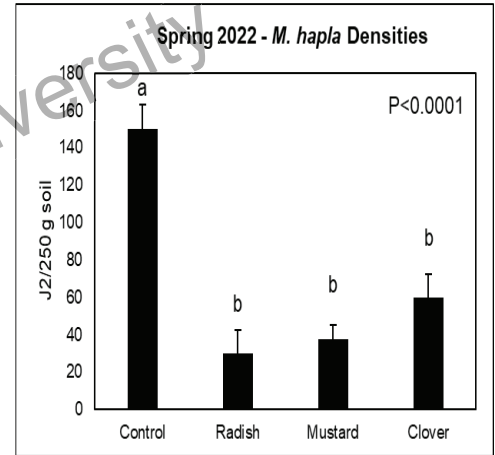
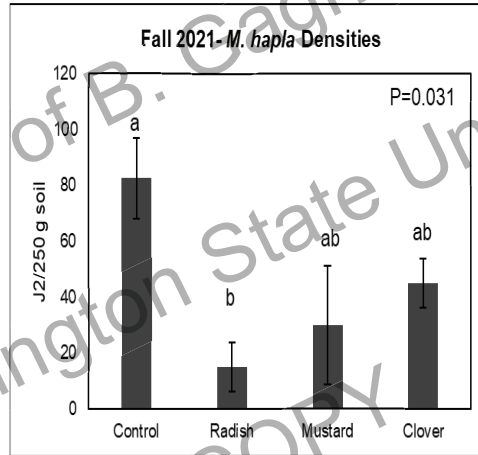
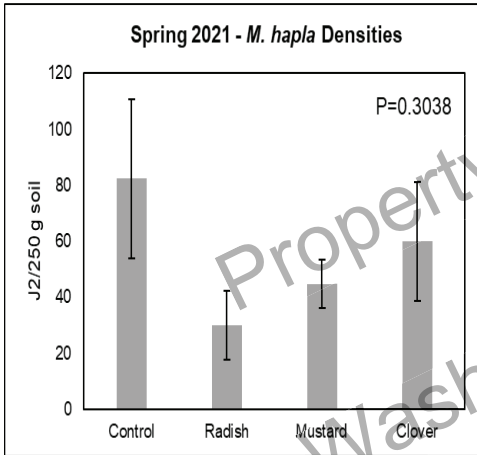
Post Plant Alternative Option : Season 1



Post Plant Alternative Option : Season 2



Post Plant Alternative Option : Results



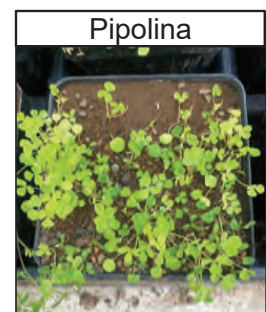
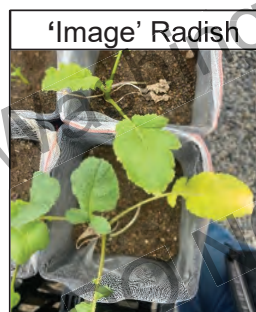
Cover crops are a promising long-term, post plant option for *M. hapla* management in Washington vineyards

Statistics: JMP ANOVA and Tukeys HSD

Continuing Research

Expanding Cover Crop Experiments

- Litchi tomato maturation against *M. hapla*
- 'Image Nematode Control' radish experiment
- Cover crop host status greenhouse trial



The Take Home

- Litchi tomato shows promise for reducing *M. hapla* in Washington State vineyards
(**pre-plant or re-plant scenarios ONLY**)
- Cover crops have potential as long-term, post-plant options for *M. hapla* management in Washington vineyards
- An integrated management approach is the best defense for the management of *M. hapla*.

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Questions?



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