

2008 Partial Budget Analysis for the Replacement of Metam Sodium by a Mustard Green Manure			
Positive Impacts		Negative Impacts	
Increased revenue¹	per acre	Decreased revenue²	per acre
	\$0		\$0
<i>Total increased revenue</i>	\$0	<i>Total decreased revenue</i>	\$0
Decreased costs³	per acre	Increased costs⁴	per acre
Metam sodium application	\$250	Plant mustard	\$28
60 lb N/ac fertilizer, at \$0.70/lb	\$42	Fertilizer, 120 #N, S	\$97
Irrigate after wheat harvest	\$9	Water & Power	\$30
		Spray weeds	\$24
		Flail chop, disk	\$13
<i>Total decreased costs</i>	\$301	<i>Total increased costs</i>	\$192
Total positive impacts	\$301	Total negative impacts	\$192
		Net Change in income	+\$109

¹ *Increased Revenue*

Not included here is potential increased revenue related to increased tuber quality; specific gravity, reduced defects, etc.

² *Decreased Revenue*

Experience with mustard green manures have not shown any effects that would decrease revenue when compared to fallow.

³ *Decreased costs*

40 gallons metam sodium/ac, at \$6.25 per gallon.

A portion of the fertilizer applied to the mustard will be taken up by the following crop, thereby reducing its fertilizer needs. Here this was estimated at 50 lbs/ac (about 50% of the N in the incorporated mustard crop), but will vary according to conditions. Some farmers are finding that they can reduce their N applications by more than this amount.

When following wheat, disking of the stubble and irrigation in preparation for fumigation will not be needed when using a mustard green manure.

Not included here are potential decreased costs related to:

- Improved water infiltration; better distribution of water and associated fertilizers and pesticides, less soilborne disease pressure

- Improved soil tilth; decreased wind erosion, hills keep shape in sandy soils, less dirt harvested with potatoes, increased harvest speeds.
- Keeping nematodes in the surface soil for fall fumigation (vs. dry fallow which drives them deeper)

⁴ *Increased costs*

These are the costs associated with managing a mustard green manure crop. The details used to come up with these costs are shown below:

- Plant mustard, Valmar applicator custom rate \$10.25/ac, 10 lb seed per acre at \$2.35 per lb of seed, 150 lb ammonium sulfate per acre applied with seed at \$0.18 per lb.
- Fertigate, 90 lb N/ac at \$0.78 per lb, \$8 per acre for water, \$22 per acre for power. Water charges will vary widely depending on your situation.
- Spray weeds, 6-8 oz. Arrow (Select) at \$2 per oz, applied at custom rate of \$10 per ac.
- Flail chop, 200 HP wheel tractor, 15' flail chopper

This analysis does not address the common use of a mustard green manure *with* a fumigant treatment.