

Using compost to improve canola productivity

Location: 30km east of Hamilton, Victoria

Objectives:

- Assess the impact compost has on the growth and productivity of canola.
- Assess the ameliorating properties of different rates of compost in a soil typical of south-western Victoria.

Background:

In a combined effort, Elders Hamilton and Van Schaik's Bio Gro have initiated a trial in south-western Victoria to study the impact compost has on canola growth and production.

This trial was spread on May 20th 2025, with the compost incorporated by sowing, and rains following in the days after. These conditions, although late, provide the ideal start to the trial, and results will accurately depict how the compost should be utilised.

Crop Type: Canola

Start date: 20/05/2025

End date: 31/12/2025

Treatments:

- Control – No compost applied
- AgriGro – Spread at 3t/ha
- AgriGro – Spread at 5t/ha
- AgriGro – Spread at 10t/ha

AgriGro is a high-quality base compost designed for broad agricultural use.

Trial Measurements:

- Establishment rate – Assessed once, 2-4 weeks post germination.
- Biomass and phenology – Monitored 2-3 times during the growing season.
- Grain yield – Measured at harvest