

Table 13. Effect of brassica cover crops on **economic return of direct seeded onions** (c.v. Hendrix) grown in the muck soils at **Triple G** in Elba, NY.

Field ¹		Bare Ground	Mustard Cover Crop Optimally Planted (Aug 20)	Mustard Cover Crop Late Planted (Aug 30)
EXPENSES (\$/A)²:				
Cover Crop		None	Brown/yellow mustard blend c.v. Caliente @ 11 lb/A \$5.25/A	Brown/yellow mustard blend c.v. Caliente @ 11 lb/A \$5.25/A
Cost of Seed		\$0	\$57.75	\$57.75
Cost to manage cover crop		\$0	\$48 (Seed, chop, disk, culti-mulch ³)	\$48 (Seed, chop, disk, culti-mulch ³)
Total cost of cover crop		\$0	\$105.75	\$105.75
Seed				
Seeding rate (seeds/ft)		8.4	6.4	6.4
Plant population (plants/A)		292,723	223,027	223,027
Cost of seed (\$/A)⁴		\$805	\$613	\$613
Total Input Costs:		\$805	\$719	\$719
INCOME (\$/A):				
Undersize (<1.75")	cwt	3.7	2.6	1.2
\$6/cwt	\$/A	\$22	\$16	\$7
Small (1.75-2.25")	cwt	41	11	15
\$10/cwt	\$/A	\$408	\$106	\$148
Medium (2.25-3")	cwt	445	230	253
\$16/cwt	\$/A	\$7,126	\$3,685	\$4,053
Jumbo (>3")	cwt	214	402	357
\$20/cwt	\$/A	\$4,286	\$8,050	\$7,144
Total Income:	cwt	704	646	627
	\$/A	\$11,842	\$11,857	\$11,353
NET RETURN (\$/A):		\$11,037	\$11,113	\$10,634

¹Brown/yellow mustard blend (c.v Caliente) 11 lb/A; optimally planted on Aug-20-2013; late planted on Aug-30-2013 (10 days). Incorporation: cover crops chopped, disked and culti-mulched on Oct-25-2016 when mustard was 2 feet tall with ~1% in bloom.

²Only expenses related to cover crops and plant population (grower reduced seeding rate by 24% in fields following mustard cover crops).

³\$12/A for each tractor pass.

⁴Cost of treated seed: \$2.75 per 100M.