

# Start Thinking About Your Cane Fallow Management Now

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## TWO EXAMPLES OF FALLOW MANAGEMENT



Unmanaged weedy fallow, inadequate drainage, volunteer cane.



Well managed legume fallow

**It's a no brainer which fallow is better for soil health and the following plant cane crop.**

What to think about -

- Take soil samples to establish your nutrient status and soil Ph for both your fallow crop and following cane crop. It's also a good time to take a pachymetra spore sample so as to determine the next cane variety to plant.
- Weed control is important - blocks that have a history of bad vine, nutgrass and grasses might have to be harvested earlier so some weed control can take place before legume planting. Depending on your planting method, there are a number of herbicides that can be used in different situations.
- Planting methods can vary from seeding after working ground and incorporating trash to direct drilling on to the old stool through the trash; the latter has been successfully done in wet seasons with the legume crop high and dry.
- Legumes grown for green manure include soybean, cowpea and lablab; those grown for grain are soybean and peanuts. Soys are more tolerant of wet conditions, produce more dry matter and fix more nitrogen, while cowpea and lablab are better suited for drier conditions, and provide better ground cover that assists with weed control. Use only fresh, good quality seed.

**Contact Dave McCallum on 0427326665 or MAPS 49636834 for more advice.**