



CanolaCAP®

Aphid suppression with parasitic wasps



THE CROP CAPSULES COMPANY



CanolaCAP® Basics

Target pest: Most aphid species, including cabbage, green peach and turnip aphids.

Capsule contents: > 700 aphid parasitoids (*Diaeretiella rapae*) in the form of mummified aphids.

Mode of action: Parasitic wasps targeting aphids. Adult parasitic wasps emerge from the mummies inside the capsule and females lay eggs into aphids in the crop. New wasps develop inside the aphid resulting in the mummification and death of the host aphid. Subsequent generations of parasitoids emerge to provide ongoing suppression of aphid populations. First mummies are noticed 2-3 weeks after application.

Application method: Aerial (Light Aircraft)

Application rate: Current guideline is 1-2 capsules per ha. Research to determine the optimum rate is ongoing. In some cases, multiple releases may be required to provide adequate suppression, particularly if pests are persistent or you have multiple reinfestations.

Withholding period: Nil



Female *D. rapae* wasp inserting her egg into an aphid.



Empty aphid mummy with adult wasp emergence hole.



Application Timing

- Results from large-scale trials show that CanolaCAP® is most effective when well-timed with initial aphid detection and early population development. While we cannot yet guarantee complete suppression, the existing data indicates that a well-timed parasitoid release is likely to provide significant reductions in aphid pressure and reduce the need for chemical insecticides.
- Start monitoring weekly at 4-leaf to early budding, focusing on the underside of lower leaves and terminal flowering spikes. Aphids typically first appear along crop edges. Timing of release usually coincides with 6-leaf stage.
- Infestations may be patchy so sample multiple points across the field. Sticky traps are also helpful monitoring tools to ensure early capsule application.



Application Method

- Crop Capsules are released across fields using a light aircraft equipped with a purpose-built, CASA-approved applicator ensuring quick and even distribution through precision placement technology.

The actual impact of aphid parasitoids in canola is likely to be 2-4 times higher than 'field observed' parasitism rates.

(Ward et al. 2022)

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Ongoing Research

We are part of a Cesar Australia-led research team evaluating the ecological and economic benefits of managing aphids in canola using parasitoid wasps – both naturally occurring and via inoculative releases with CanolaCAP®.



Trial results update 2025

