

**What is stubble?**

*Response from Belinda Lambert:*

Stubble is the above ground vegetation residue from the previous crop.

**How do you compare mulch to weed gunnel?**

*Response from Belinda Lambert:*

There are many different viewpoints, so it worth doing a bit of online research to understand the pros and cons. The scale of your beds will also play a large part in your decision making.

- Both control weeds – if mulch is applied thickly.
- Expense
- Sustainability
- Mulch will eventually break down and improve the soil structure – but it may also introduce weeds and disease.

*Response from Nick Young:*

Some of the biggest issues with mulching are choosing the right type, being able to source enough, and finding an efficient way to spread it over large areas.

Positives of mulching are the soil benefits (as mentioned previously), the ability to use mechanical planters (time & money saver), and no landfill waste.

*Response from John Olliff:*

I have used both and from *my* perspective it is about weed control

I found regardless of the type (pea or wheat) weed eventually get through certainly not to the same degree as it would be without mulch. With weed gunnel some weeding is required around the slits where the seed is inserted, however you do not have the overall same weed load.

In favour of mulch is the organic material returned to the soil, however that is probably a long term gain.

**Is it suitable to rotate the garlic bed planting yearly? Plant in one area and build second area with a cover crop (winter & summer) for planting the following year?**

*Response from Belinda Lambert:*

3 - 5 years rotation is recommended for soil development and disease control.

**What is side sprouting?**

(Also referred to as Witches Brooming and Hairy Tops)

In 2013 Penny Woodward conducted a survey with AGIA members on this topic. Her findings are here (<https://garlicaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AGIA-garlic-survey-results.pdf>)

The AGIA posted the following with images on their facebook in 2019 (<https://www.facebook.com/AusGarlicIndAssoc/posts/witches-broom-hairy-tops-secondary-sproutingno-matter-what-you-call-it-this-bane/2321538354632056/>)

Whilst there were no definitive results, the general thinking that it is most probably caused by excessive nitrogen in fall and winter, and/or fluctuating winter temperatures.

With the climate swings we have been experiencing, it seems to be occurring more often.