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*Brassica napus* var. *oleifera*

**OIL-SEED RAPE** is a biennial. It has small yellow flowers.

It is also known as Cole, European rape, German rape, *Raps* (Swedish), and *Rapsi* (Finnish).

Oil-seed rape's seeds yield 40% oil from which poisons are removed for its use in the production of margarine and cooking oil.

*Napus* is Latin (kind of turnip) meaning 'turnip-like'. *Oleifera* is derived from Latin *olei* (oil, olive oil) and *-fer* (bearing, carrying) components meaning 'oil-bearing'.

Oil-seed rape has been cultivated since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in central and northern Europe for the oil extracted from the seeds, and contributes striking yellow fields to the countryside.

Unfortunately in Britain at least it has begun invasive inroads beyond field boundaries and national warnings have even been given to private gardeners, to remove any stray plants seen in their gardens before the flowers die in order to prevent the seeds being dispersed.

Other subspecies provide an oil used in lubricating jet engines, and a source of birdseed.