

## SPOTLIGHT - The Forever Green Initiative (FGI)

FGI is a joint program of the University of Minnesota and the USDA Agricultural Research Service focused on developing new crops and high- efficiency cropping systems, emphasizing those that will improve natural resources and provide new economic opportunities. A shift to these types of cropping systems is essential for Minnesota to meet its water quality goals. Forever Green connects plant breeding and genomics, agronomics, food science and utilization technology to develop not just new crops and systems, but supply chains and markets to support them. Projects include all five CLC strategies: agroforestry; perennial grains, forage, and biomass; and rotations and winter annuals. Examples include intermediate wheatgrass for Kernza® perennial grain production, silphium, winter oilseeds like camelina, cold-hardy hazelnuts, high-value botanical products, and traditional crops like alfalfa, winter barley, and summer annual grains that can be incorporated into crop rotations.



*Camelina – Credit: Russ Gesch*