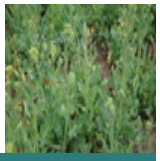
Brassica
Rapeseed, Forage
Brassica napus



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Excellent fall-planted cover crop choice. Generally winter-hardy if seeded during the optimum planting window; cultivars vary in cold hardiness. With adequate residual soil fertility, provides good biomass, forage, deep branched taproot, N scavenging, weed suppression. Host for sclerotinia, so caution when planting prior to legumes. Spring flowers attract pollinators. Low cost to seed. Range of cultivar choices (canola for seed, hybrids for grazing, etc.), characteristics may differ by cultivar. Contributes pollinator food source to mixes, but plant at low end of seeding rate to prevent it from outcompeting other cover crops in the mix. Hard to kill in late spring with herbicides. “Dwarf Essex” is a commonly-grown cultivar.


Rapeseed - Bjorkman [2020]


Rapeseed - Raubenstein [2020]


Rapeseed - Salon [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window	Long
Nitrogen Scavenging	●●●●
Lasting Residue	●●●
Prevent Fall Soil Erosion	●●●
Prevent Spring Soil Erosion	●●●
Forage Harvest Value	●
Penetrates Plow Pan	●●●●
Reduces Surface Compaction	●●
Improve Soil Organic Matter	●●
Increase Soil Aggregation	●●
Good Grazing	●●●
Pollinator Food	●●●

WEEDS

Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds	●●
Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds	●●●
Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds	●●●
Persistence	●
Volunteer Establishment	●●●●●

ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

Low Fertility	●●●
Drought	●●●
Heat	●●●
Shade	●●●
Flood	●●
Salinity	●

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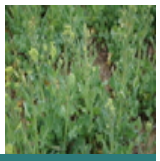

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1000 - 2500
Soil Texture	Fine Medium
Soil pH	6 - 7.2
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	
Root Depth	Deep

Soil Drainage

- Very Poorly Drained
- Poorly Drained
- **Somewhat Poorly Drained**
- **Moderately Well Drained**
- **Well Drained**
- Excessively Drained
- Saturated Muck
- **Well Drained Muck**

Planting

Seeds Per Lb	157000
Seed Price Per Lb	$$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	7 - 12
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	Yes
Min Germination Temp (°F)	41

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	
Tillage At Flowering	
Freezing At Vegetative	
Freezing At Flowering	
Chemical At Vegetative	
Chemical At Flowering	
Mow At Flowering	
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	

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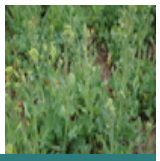
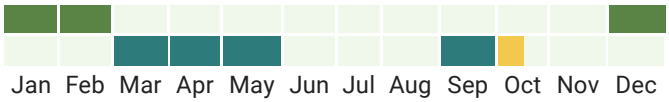


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	Invalid date - Invalid date
Reliable Establishment	03/01 - 05/31 09/01 - 09/30
Temperature/Moisture Risk	10/01 - 10/15
Active Growth Period	Winter
Winter Survival	Expected
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

Planting: Frost seeding may not be advisable in coastal areas.

Termination: Terminate at first sign of flowering to avoid risk of seed set.

Growth, Roots, and Nutrients: Rapeseed has a deep taproot and also a fibrous root system near the surface oidf the soil.

Forage and Grazing: Oilseed rape has high levels of glucosinulates and erucic acid whichare toxic to people and livestock. Canola and forage rape have low levels of these compounds. Bloat risk and same animal health risks as other brassicas. Not palatable to voles.

Weeds: Many Brassicas have hard seed; Can bolt under certain conditions and become a serious weed if allowed to go to seed. Host for root-lesion nematode (P. penetrans).

Pollinators: One of the first blooms early in the spring good for pollinators

Nematodes: Supports reproduction of some root-knot nematode species/races.

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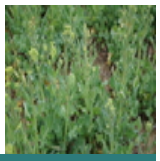

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

References & Resources

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Spring Planted Cover Crops for Vegetable Rotations, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
Cover Crops, Brassicas, University of Massachusetts Extension
Plant Cover Crops, University of Maryland Extension
Cover Cropping for Success, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Forage Turnip and Rapeseed, Cornell University Cooperative Extension
Late Summer Crucifers, Cornell University Cooperative Extension
Cover Crops for Conservation Tillage Systems, Penn State Extension
Using Flowering Cover Crops for Native Pollinating Bee Conservation, Penn State Extension
Special Cover Crop Control Considerations, Penn State Extension