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]

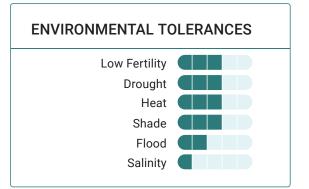
Rapeseed - Salon [2020]

GOALS



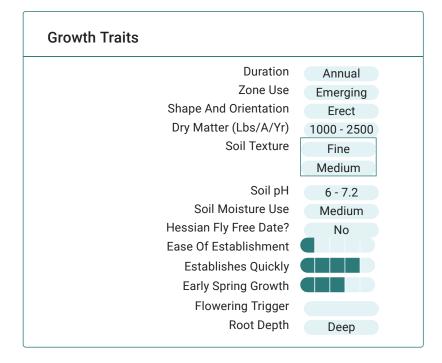
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

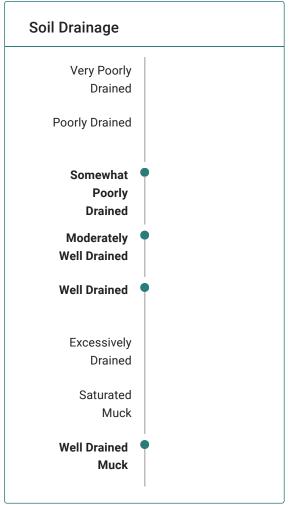
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

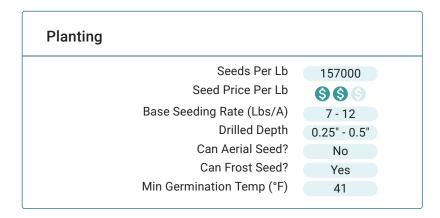


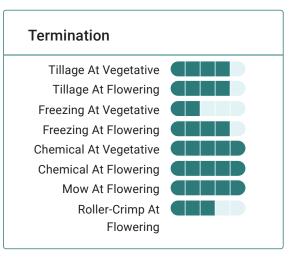


REPUBLICATION PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET



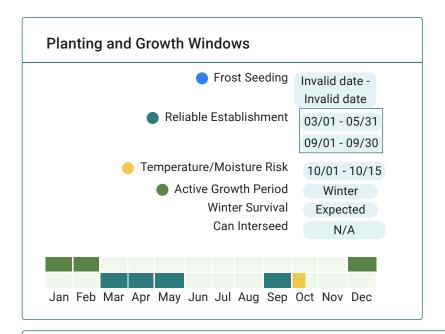








PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET



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.



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

References & Resources

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

<u>Spring Planted Cover Crops for Vegetable Rotations</u>, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops, Brassicas, University of Massachusetts Extension

<u>Cover Crops for Conservation Tillage Systems</u>, Penn State Extension

<u>Using Flowering Cover Crops for Native Pollinating Bee Conservation.</u> Penn State Extension