



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Good forage, excellent for grazing. Potential for fast fall growth, high biomass, good N scavenging with adequate residual soil fertility. Cultivars can vary in bulb-vs.-leaf ratio, winter-hardiness, day-length response. Choose varieties that meet your needs. Big bulbs can be slow to break down, can interfere with subsequent operations like planting. Similar to radish/rapeseed, but much less taproot - instead makes bulb on surface. 'Purple Top' is a cheap, readily-available turnip cultivar.





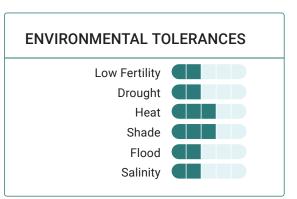
Turnip, Forage - Bjorkman [2020]

Turnip, Forage - Larson [2020]

GOALS Growing Window Penetrates Plow Pan Medium Nitrogen Scavenging **Reduces Surface Compaction** Lasting Residue Improve Soil Organic Matter Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Increase Soil Aggregation Prevent Spring Soil Erosion **Good Grazing**



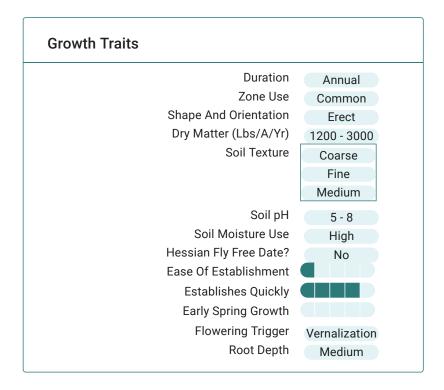
Forage Harvest Value

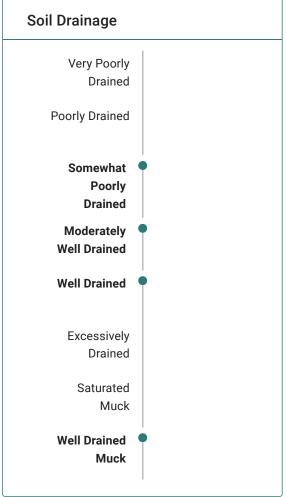


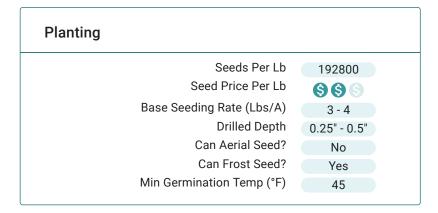
Pollinator Food

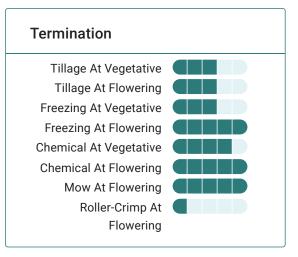


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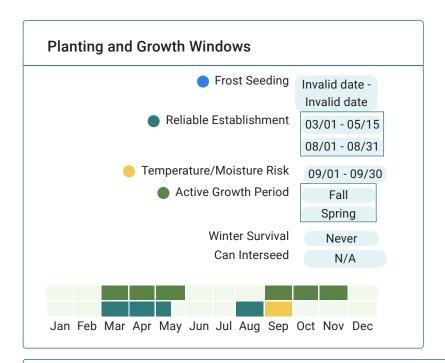








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Extended Comments

Planting: If access to irrigation, can seed all summer. Frost seeding may not be advisable in coastal areas.

Forage and Grazing: Forage turnips don't typically form bulbs; bloat and animal health risk if grazing, as with other brassicas.

Goals: While spring-planted forage turnip can protect against soil erosion in the spring, fall-planted forage turnip does not (due to rapid decomposition over winter).

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

References & Resources

Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops, Brassicas, University of Massachusetts Extension

Spring Management of Overwintering Cover Crops - Don't Wait!, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Forage Turnip and Rapeseed, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Late Summer Crucifers, Cornell University Cooperative Extension