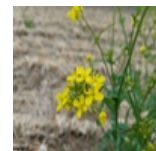Brassica
Brassica, Forage
Brassica oleracea

⊛ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Assorted hybrids of rapeseed, radish, turnips, mustards, kales, and collards. Can be grown spring through fall; not winter hardy. Fast-growing. High biomass, good for forage and silage. Should not constitute the majority of livestock diet. Does not form associations with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. If grown for silage, plant in mix with a cover crop with higher dry matter such as cereal rye.
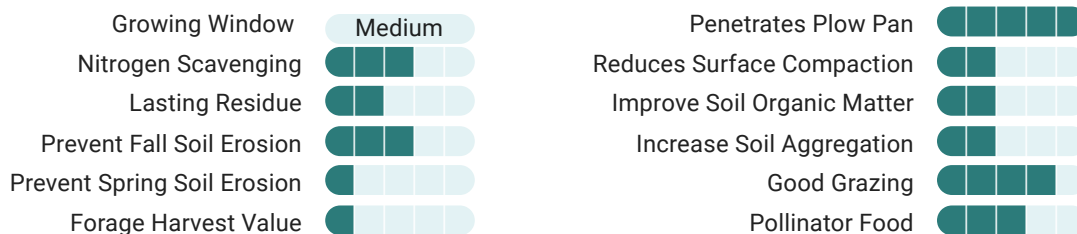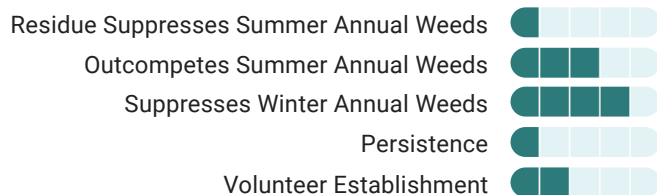

Brassica, Forage - Larson [2020]
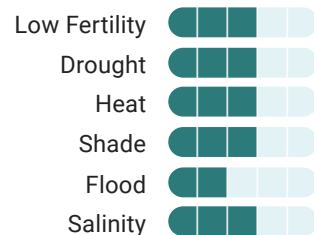

Brassica, Forage - Kelly Gill [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window	Medium	Penetrates Plow Pan	▇▇▇▇
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	▇▇

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	▇▇▇

Brassica
Brassica, Forage
Brassica oleracea

Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	500 - 2000
Soil Texture	Medium
	Fine
Soil pH	6 - 7.2
Soil Moisture Use	Medium
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Long DayPlant Size
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage

Very Poorly Drained

Poorly Drained

Somewhat Poorly Drained

Moderately Well Drained ●

Well Drained ●

Excessively Drained

Saturated Muck

Well Drained Muck ●
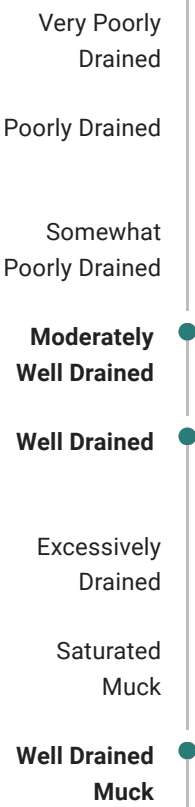
Planting

Seeds Per Lb	100000
Seed Price Per Lb	$ $ $
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	3 - 4
Drilled Depth	0.25" - 0.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	40

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	

Brassica
Brassica, Forage
Brassica oleracea
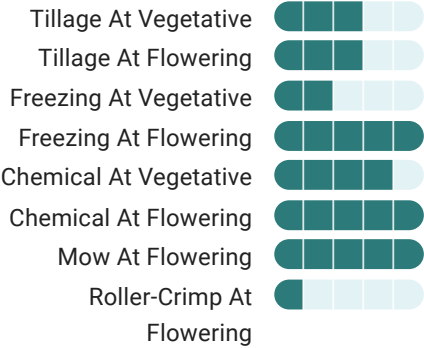
Planting and Growth Windows

🔵 Frost Seeding	N/A
🟢 Reliable Establishment	03/01 - 04/15
	08/01 - 09/30
🟡 Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
🟢 Active Growth Period	Fall
	Spring
Winter Survival	Seldom
Can Interseed	N/A

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Scavenges sulfur. For grazing purposes, restrict to 75% of total ration or mixing with a grass is recommended. High glucosinolates interfer with mineral metabolism. Nitrate poisoning is possible if fed to livestock.

Forage and Grazing: Bloat risk and some other animal health concerns to manage when grazing brassicas.

Weeds: Many Brassicas have hard seed; Can bolt under certain conditions and become a serious weed if allowed to go to seed.

Disease: 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).

Nematodes: Host for root-lesion nematode (P. penetrans).

References & Resources

Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
Plant Cover Crops, University of Maryland Extension
Cover Crops for Conservation Tillage Systems, Penn State Extension