## PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

### **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

"Mustard" encompasses several species including white/yellow mustard (Sinapis alba), Indian/brown mustard (Brassica juncea), and black mustard (Brassica nigra). Research and match varieties to your needs. Similar to other brassicas such as rapeseed/canola.Most commonly used for pest suppression and adding diversity to mixes. Potential for fast fall growth and high biomass with good soil fertility. Well-documented for deep N scavenging in fall. Not known for subsoiling, some varieties may not have a taproot. Winter-hardiness, day-length response, other characteristics vary widely by cultivar. If planted in the spring, may bolt (flower) before it can produce much biomass. Does not form associations with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Host for insects of many related cash crop species used in vegetable crop production.







Mustard - Bjorkman [2020]



Mustard - Larson [2020]



Mustard - Larson [2020]

### **GOALS**

**Growing Window** Short 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**

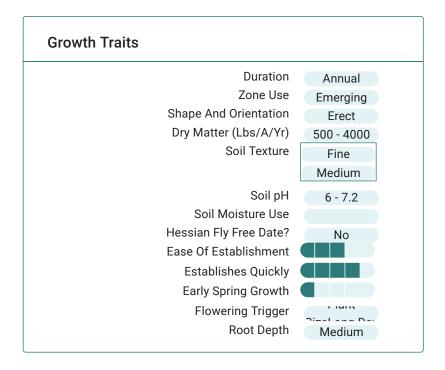
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence

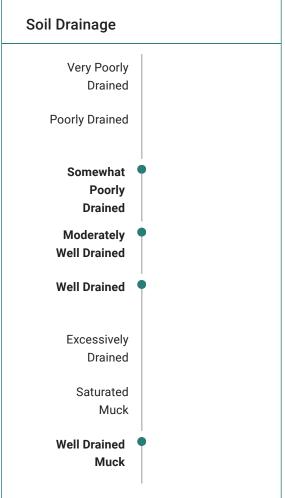


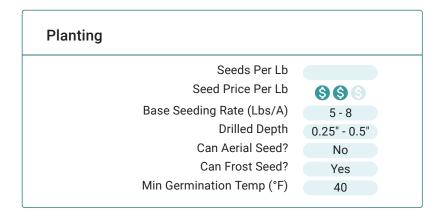
# **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES**

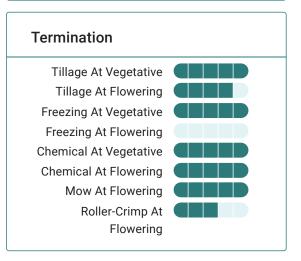
Low Fertility Drought Heat Shade Flood Salinity

# ♠ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

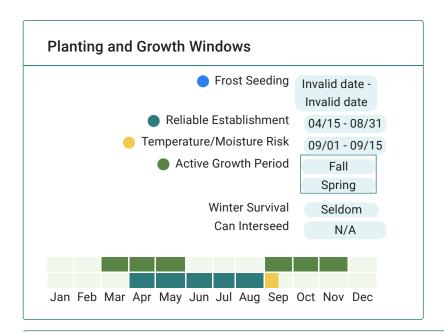








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# **Extended Comments**

**Basic Agronomics:** 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.

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

Forage and Grazing: Contains high levels of glucosinulates. Do not feed to livestock.

**Goals:** Brown mustards (B. juncea and crosses) are better for suppressing summer annual weeds because they are slower to bolt.

Taxonomy: Distinguish biofumigant ypes?

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

**Pollinators:** Useful to pollinators since it flowers early in the spring. Don't plant if your goal is honey production (fouls the taste of the honey).

**Termination:** If using as biofumigant terminate at pod fill (seed formed but still green) by flail mowing followed immediately by incorporation; use as a biofumigant is less advisable in cold areas like zone 4.



# PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

## **References & Resources**

<u>Under Cover – Integrating Cover Crops into Silage Corn Systems</u>, University of Vermont Extension

<u>Cover Cropping for Success</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

<u>Spring Management of Overwintering Cover Crops – Don't Wait!</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

**Fall Mustard**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

**<u>Late Summer Crucifers</u>**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

**Spring Mustard**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension