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.

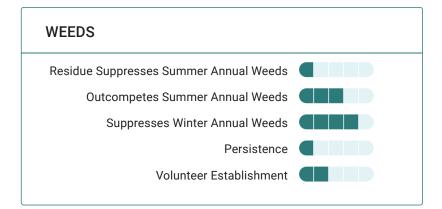


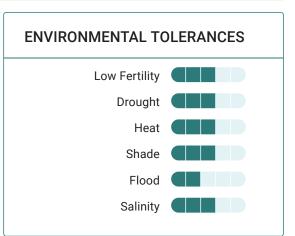


Brassica, Forage - Larson [2020]

Brassica, Forage - Kelly Gill [2020]

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





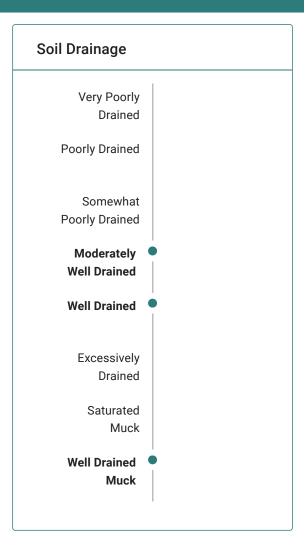
Brassica, Forage

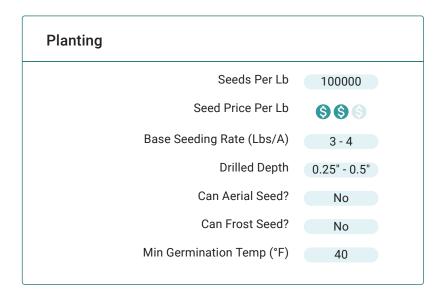
Brassica oleracea

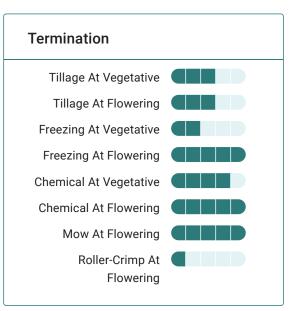


♠ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

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	Day Dlast City
Root Depth	Medium







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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).

Brassica

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PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

References & Resources

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