

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.



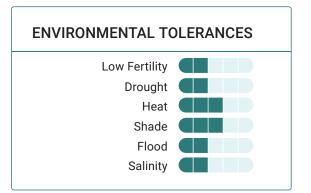
Turnip, Purple Top - Bjorkman [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window Medium Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value

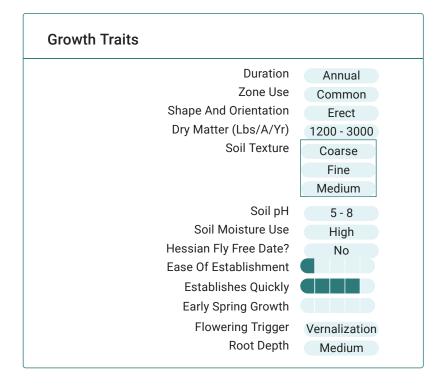
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

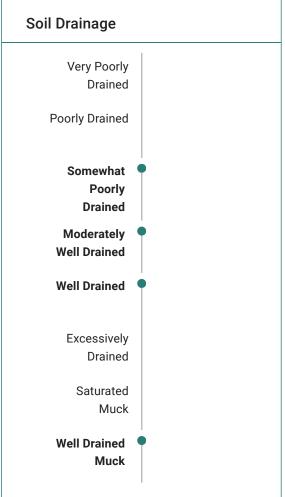
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

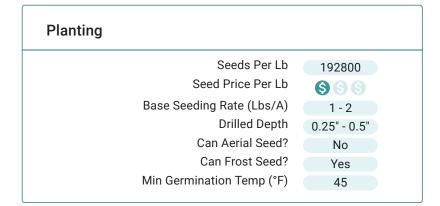


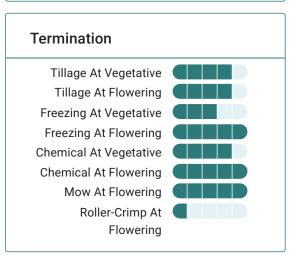


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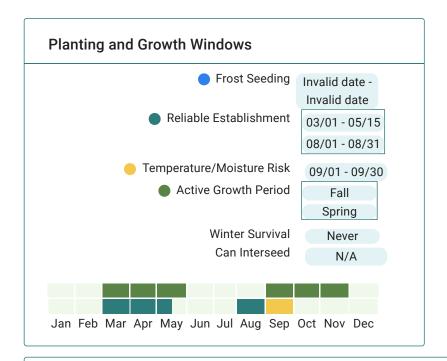








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Extended Comments

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

Forage and Grazing: Bulb-forming type turnips can be stored for forage, but lifters and washing equipment are needed to do so.

Goals: Brassicas are excellent N scavengers but will winter-kill and release N potentially long before a cash crop is present. If N scavenging is goal, plant in mix with species that overwinters.

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

References & Resources

<u>Cover Crops, Brassicas</u>, University of Massachusetts Extension <u>Late Summer Crucifers</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension