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.



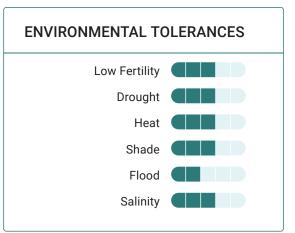


Brassica, Forage - Larson [2020]

Brassica, Forage - Kelly Gill [2020]

GOALS Growing Window 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





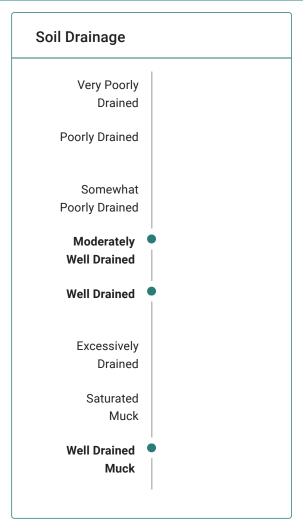
Brassica, Forage

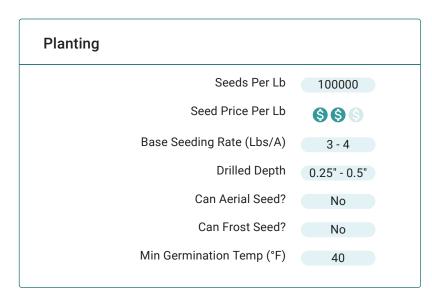
Brassica oleracea

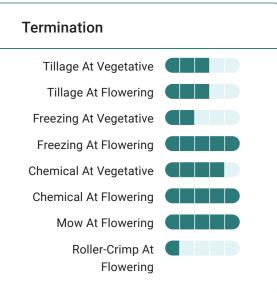


♠ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

| 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 | Doublant 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).

References & Resources

Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, 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