



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 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. 'Purple Top' is a cheap, readily-available cultivar.



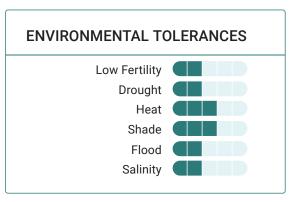


Turnip, Forage - Bjorkman [2020]

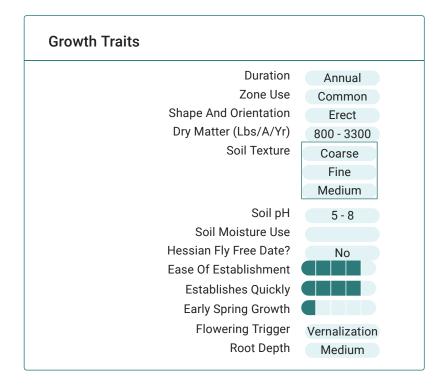
Turnip, Forage - Larson [2020]

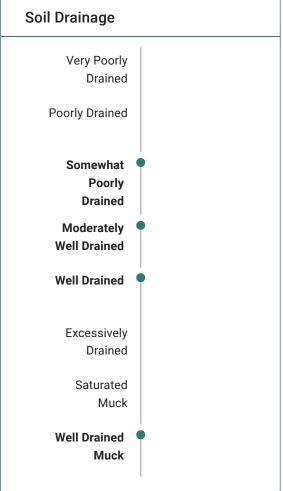


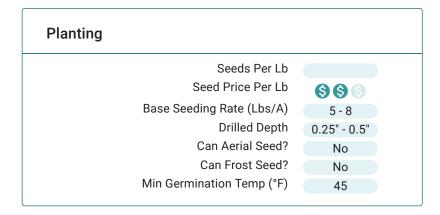


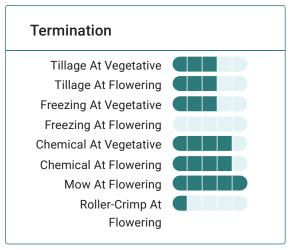


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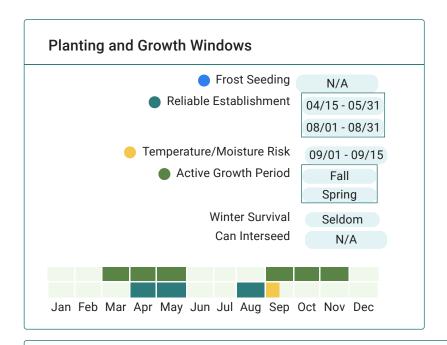








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Extended Comments

Forage and Grazing: Forage turnips don't typically form bulbs; bloat and animal health risk if grazing, as with other brassicas.

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.

Taxonomy: Purple Top is a bulbing turnip with real cheap seed.

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

References & Resources

2016 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension

2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial, University of Vermont Extension

Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Spring Management of Overwintering Cover Crops - Don't Wait!, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Forage Turnip and Rapeseed, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Late Summer Crucifers, Cornell University Cooperative Extension