

## PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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.



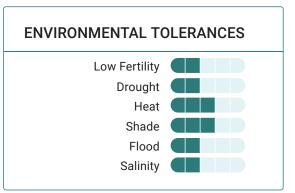


Turnip, Forage - Bjorkman [2020]

Turnip, Forage - Larson [2020]

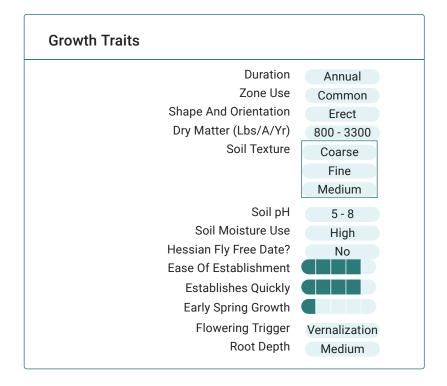
### **GOALS Growing Window** Short Penetrates Plow Pan Nitrogen Scavenging **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Increase Soil Aggregation Prevent Spring Soil Erosion **Good Grazing** Forage Harvest Value Pollinator Food

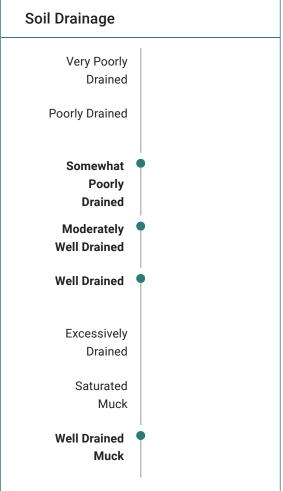


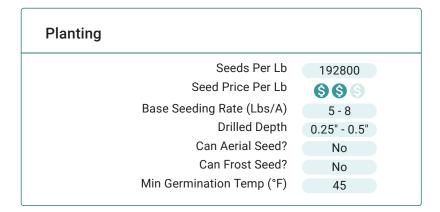


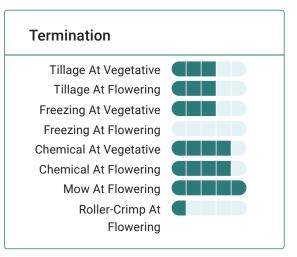


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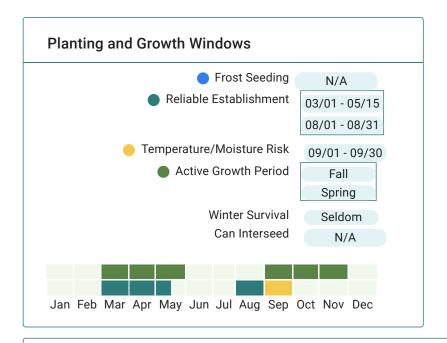








# ♠ PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 DATASET



## **Extended Comments**

Basic Agronomics: This is only aboveground biomass does not include the turnip.

**Forage and Grazing:** Bloat risk and other animal health risks associated with brassicas. Forage turnips don't typically form bulbs. 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. While spring-planted forage turnip can protect against soil erosion in the spring, fall-planted forage turnip does not (due to rapid decomposition over winter).

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

**Cover Crops, Brassicas**, University of Massachusetts Extension

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

**<u>Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops.</u>**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Late Summer Crucifers, Cornell University Cooperative Extension