

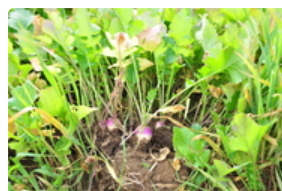
PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

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.

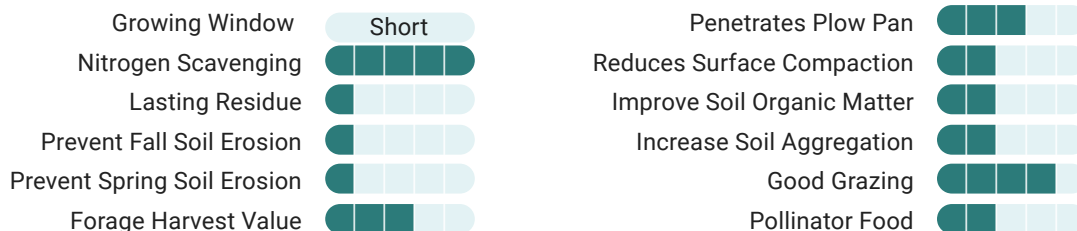


Turnip, Forage - Bjorkman [2020]

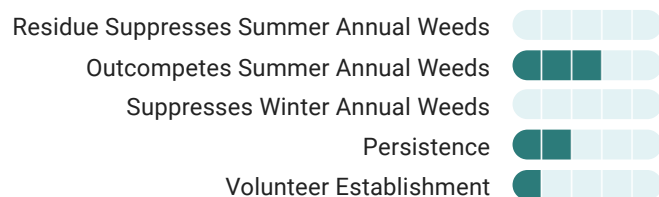


Turnip, Forage - Larson [2020]

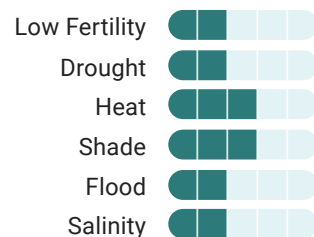
GOALS



WEEDS



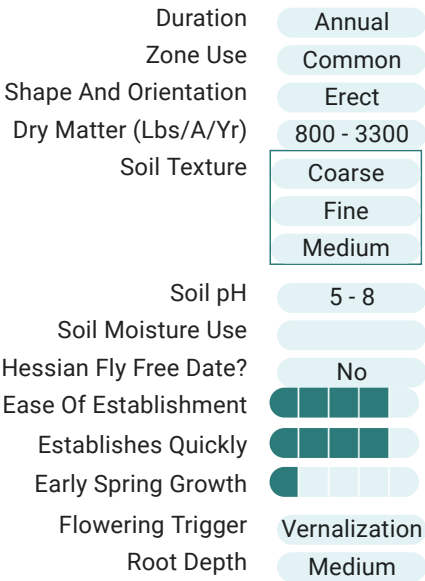
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



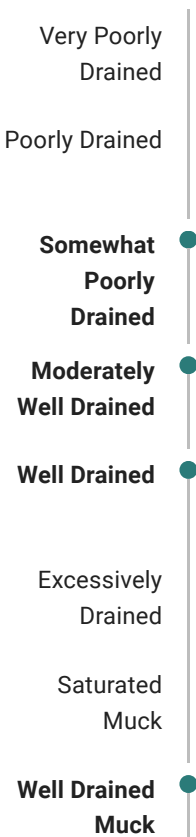


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

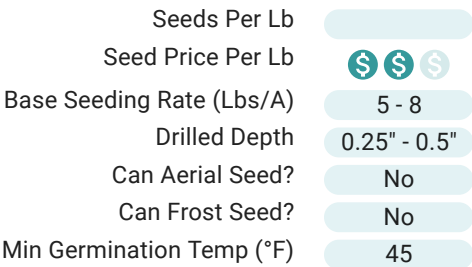
Growth Traits



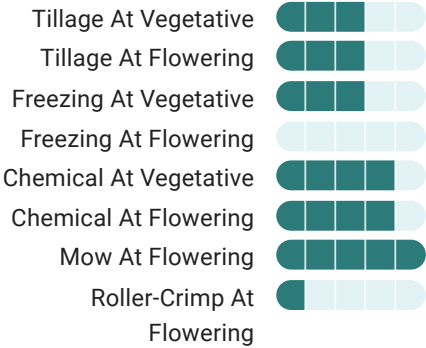
Soil Drainage



Planting



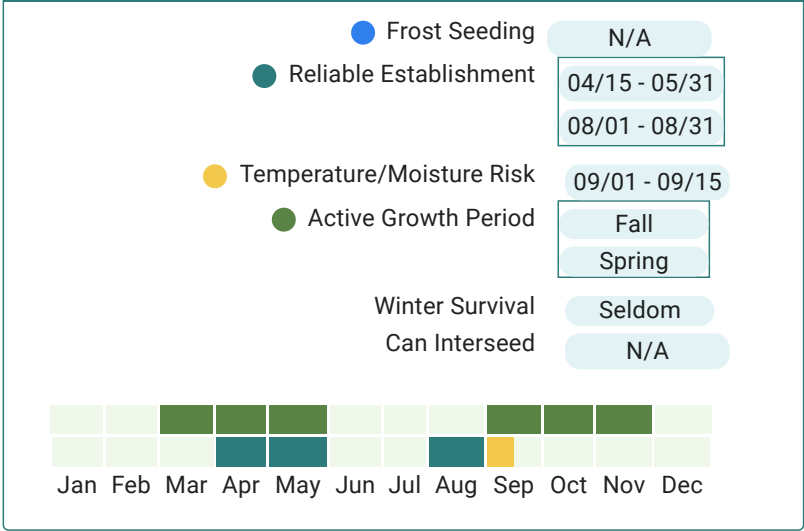
Termination





PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows



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
[Early Spring Seasonal Cover Crops](#), Cornell University Cooperative Extension
[Late Summer Crucifers](#), Cornell University Cooperative Extension