



Purple Top Turnip

Purple top turnips are easy to grow, cold hardy, and drought tolerant. Of all the brassicas, turnips are among the quickest to establish. Livestock graze both the tops and the bulbs. To slow rate of passage and increase NDFd as this high-sugar and high-protein forage is digested, plant in a mix with oats or other grass, or feed in combination with hay to add digestible fiber. Allow cattle to adjust to the brassicas (introduce into the diet slowly). If used as a summer annual, turnips work well planted with sudangrass or sorghum-sudan for a nutritious forage with two levels of grazing. Brassicas are at their most productive during the fall.

Don't allow the cattle to graze flowering brassicas, since these can be slightly toxic to the animal. To avoid tainted milk, finish grazing 3-4 hours before milking.

Soil Adaptation

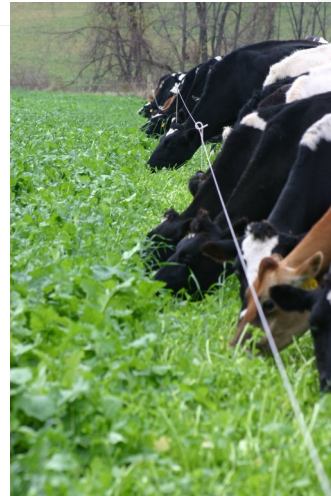
Wet – Does not tolerate wet soils well

Drought – Fair. Productive during fall and spring, which tends to reduce drought risk.

pH Range –5.3—7.5

Grazing Management

Graze after 80-90 days (for full bulb maturity) leaving a 3-4" stubble if regrowth is desired. If regrowth is not wanted, allow grazing of the bulbs.



At A Glance

- Fast establishing
- Produces nutritious bulb and leaves—high sugar and protein content, palatable
- Strip grazing is ideal to prevent trampling/polluting
- Multiple grazings if residue is left

Best Uses

Grazing

Establishment

Planting Dates: Early spring through summer. If spring planted in a cold climate, best planted with an oats nurse crop for brassica seedling protection.

Seeding Rate: 4-5 lbs/A

Seeding Depth: 1/8" - 3/8". Can also broadcast followed by cultipacking if not planted in a mix with larger seeds.