



T-Raptor Hybrid Brassica

T-Raptor is an early maturing hybrid brassica, a cross between a forage turnip and a forage rape, with 50-70 day maturity. T-Raptor exhibits a leafy growth habit (higher leaf-to-bulb ratio) and is well-suited to grazing. T-Raptor is an excellent late-summer feed source, and a good supplement for late summer periods when cool-season forage grasses slow in production.

Forage brassicas are useful for extending the grazing season when other forages are less productive. Brassicas can provide higher crude protein and digestibility at half the cost of hay or conserved forages. Brassicas have extremely high yield potential when grown on high fertility soils and properly managed. Brassicas can produce as much as 40 tons (wet yield) per acre. Cold, drought and heat tolerant, these crops commonly provide valuable feed when other crops are less productive.

ADAPTATION - CLIMATE

Widely adapted throughout the United States. Can be planted in spring or late summer.

ADAPTATION - SOIL

T-Raptor requires good soil drainage and a pH between 5.3 and 7.5. Responds well to fertilizer.

Uses

Under good management, it can be grazed once a month. T-Raptor is an excellent late-summer feed source, and a good supplement for late summer periods when cool-season forages grasses slow in production.

Establishment

T-Raptor requires good soil drainage and a pH between 5.3 and 7.5. Seed should be planted in a firm, moist seedbed. T-Raptor can be broadcasted or drilled with 6 to 8 inch rows at 3-4 lbs. per acre. It is very important not to plant the seed too deep; one-eighth of an inch on well-firmed soil will work best. To prevent disease and pest problems, brassicas should not be planted more than two consecutive years in the same location.

Management

T-Raptor can be sown in spring or late summer. It is quick to establish, ready for first grazing 6-8 weeks after planting. Strip-grazing prevents both yield and quality losses due to tramping and polluting. It is also important not to overfeed the cattle when they are first allowed to graze the crop. High dry matter intake of brassicas can cause health problems. Stock should be allowed to adjust to the change of diet. Supplementing with other forages will also prevent these problems.

At A Glance

- Early maturing hybrid—cross between forage turnip and forage rape, with no bulb
- High forage yields
- Multiple grazings
- Good plant vigor
- Good clubroot resistance
- Grazing in 6-8 weeks
- Rapid regrowth
- Suitable for all grazing stock, if combined with fiber source

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;

1-3 lbs/A in mixture

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



High Energy Forages and Soil Building Cover Crops