

Also known as cultivated radish, radish, oilseed radish, forage radish. Radishes are commonly used in cover crop mixtures and sometimes as monocultures. If planted early, quick growth can help suppress fall-emerging weeds. In fields with high residual nitrogen and with little competition, roots can get very large and present planting problems. Because these flower early and don't reliably winterkill, seed set can be a problem with late planted cash crops like cotton.

**Recommended Varieties**

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
'Common' VNS	Available. Produces large fleshy root.	
Defender oilseed radish	More branched root and more top growth.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data
Sod Buster	Produces large fleshy root. Claims high level of glucosinolate which can suppress nematode populations.	Petcher Seeds
Eco-till Soil Buster	Produces large fleshy root.	
Smart Radish, Nitro Radish, Graza Radish, Nematode Radish	Nitro is a standard oil seed radish, Smart has more branch roots and more top growth, Graza has less root and more forage, Nematode claims high level of glucosinolates.	Green Cover Seed

**Planting Information**

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	¼ - ¾	Should not be planted later than Halloween. Can plant in August.
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	8 - 13	Higher seeding rate may increase competition and decrease root size.
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	8 - 20	Lower seeding rates (6-8 lbs/acre) are recommended in LA.
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	

Continue to next page...

**Termination Information**

Information	Source
<p>Brassicas, including Daikon radish, do not reliably winterkill in the Coastal Plain. Brassicas can be terminated by herbicides, mowing after flowering, heavy grazing, and tillage. They need to be killed before full bloom to prevent seed set. Full rate of paraquat (0.75 lb ai/acre), multiple applications of glyphosate, or glyphosate plus 1 pt/acre 2,4-D may be needed to terminate.</p> <p>Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.</p>	<p>GA and VA county agent – personal communications, Managing Cover Crops Profitably</p>

**Cultural Traits**

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	4,000 - 7,000	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	50 - 100 N is released very quickly, usually within a month and can be lost to leaching if other plants are not actively growing, particularly in sandy soils.	Managing Cover Crops Profitably, Radishes – A New Cover Crop for Organic Farming Systems
Life Cycle	Cool season annual broadleaf	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Growth Habit	Upright	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Preferred Soil pH	6.0 - 7.5	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	45°	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Cautions	Radish roots can get as large as 4 inches in diameter if there is residual nitrogen in the soil, little competition from other plants, and late termination (late spring). The roots will decompose quickly after termination, but can cause planters to bounce if decomposition has not occurred. Neighbors may complain about the odor during decomposition.	Farmer – personal communications

Continue to next page...



### Sources:

Gruver, J., R.R. Weil, C. White, Y. Lawley. 2017. Radishes – A New Cover Crop for Organic Farming Systems. eXtension. Organic Agriculture.

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_022076](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_022076)

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>

USDA Oilseed Radish Plant Guide: [https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs\\_rasa2.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_rasa2.pdf)