

Turnips grow rapidly and have been reported to decrease soil compaction. Good choice to reduce habitat for soil borne pests. This cover crop requires fertilization (according to soil test recommendations) and has a low drought tolerance. Weed control mainly through shading/competition. In shrink swell soils of the Blacklands, much of the compaction fighting effect is lost when large (vegetable) parts of roots are forced upward by swelling soils.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Purple top	Rapid growth with grazing potential	Personal communications
Pasja (rape - turnip cross)	High biomass potential with longer tapered root than conventional turnips	
Winfred (rape - turnip cross)	Rapid mature (70-90 days) with excellent cold hardiness	

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	1/4"-3/4" Very small seed	Personal communications
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	1-3	
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	2-5	
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A no information available.	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Terminate minimum 2-3 weeks before planting corn and soybeans to minimize yield loss risks. Herbicide*, mowing, grazing.	SARE
*Always follow herbicide labels for crop to be terminated and for compatibility with subsequent crop(s). Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations.	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,000-4,000	SARE
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	Depends on fertilization (usually very low)	
Life Cycle	Winter annual or biennial	
Growth Habit	Upright broadleaf	
Preferred Soil pH	6.0-7.5	
Relative Costs	\$ Higher cost per pound but low rates / acre required	
Min. Germination Temp	45°F	
Cautions		

Sources:

Texas A&M AgriLife:
Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.

SARE:

<https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition/Text-Version/Nonlegume-Cover-Crops/Brassicacrops-and-Mustards>