

Radish

Raphanus sativa



Photo by USDA NRCS SD Jason Miller, Pierre

Season type: Winter annual

Uses

Compaction reduction	VG	Attract beneficials	F
Residue persistence	F	Nitrogen scavenger	E
Erosion control	VG	P&K scavenger	VG
Weed control	E	Forage quality	G
Nematode control	VG		

E=Excellent; VG=Very Good; G=Good; F=Fair; P=Poor/None

Seeding rate: 8-10 lb/acre drilled; 12-14 lb/acre broadcast.

Planting date: September to early October. Soil temperatures between 45°F and 85°F. Plants should reach 6-8 leaves before a killing frost.

Production

Residue: 4,000 to 7,000 lb/acre.

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Photo by www.hort.cornell.edu

Pest and weed control

Biotoxins produced by brassicas when they decompose are toxic against many soilborne pathogens and pests, including insects, nematodes, and weeds.

Radishes winter-kill below 25°F.

Surface residue

Brassicas grow rapidly in the autumn, producing large amounts of biomass, good for choking out weeds. Residues breakdown quickly, making nutrients available to following crops in the early spring.

Alleviate soil compaction

The thick, upper part of the root grows 12-20 inches long, breaking up surface compaction and leaving vertical holes and zones of weakness. The thin, lower tap root grows 6 feet or longer.



Brassicas prefer well-drained soils with pH between 5.5 and 8.5.



Photo by www.hort.cornell.edu

Deep roots scavenge nutrients and leave channels to increase water infiltration and root penetration. Smaller roots increase topsoil channels.

Brassicas can be grown in a mixture with winter grains.

Adapted from *Managing Cover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



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USDA-ARS-NSDL
411 S. Donahue Dr.
Auburn, AL 36832
334-887-8596

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