



# 360 Forage

soil health + plant health + animal health



## PURPLE TOP TURNIP

*Brassica rapa*

### Purpose & Fit

High sugar content and high moisture content in the bulbs contribute to the palatability of purple top turnips. High in both potassium and calcium, purple top turnips will accumulate sulfur over time as well. Production of 6,000 lbs. dry matter per acre is possible without irrigation, and 8,000 lbs. dry matter per acre is possible with irrigation.

### Growth Pattern

Purple top turnips produce a 2"–5" in diameter bulb with erect stems that contain 8-12 leaves forming a crown. Leaves are light green in color, hairy, and thin. Flowers are a soft yellow and extend above the terminal buds.

### Climate & Soil

Turnips grow best on moderately deep loam, fertile, and slightly acidic soil. Tolerant of partial shade and temperatures down to 40°F, avoid grounds that are wet/poorly drained. Turnips will winterkill in temperatures less than 25°F.

### Planting

Purple top turnips can achieve maturity in 30-45 days, with near maximum production levels in 70-90 days. Planting should occur with 2" separation and 12"-18" between rows. Seeding can happen as soon as soils are workable in the spring. If fall seeding, sow seeds about two months before the first frost in your area. Soils should be loose to a depth of 12"–15", and seedlings thinned to a spacing between 3"–4" inches.

### Grazing

Colder temperatures will assist in enhancing turnip palatability. Ensure that dry roughage is available to mitigate some unfavorable conditions when grazing brassicas and specifically turnips. Strip graze to force cattle to eat both roots and tops and increase carrying capacity.

### Quick Data

Seeds/LB:  
180,000 - 200,000

Optimum Growth Range:  
45°F - 70°F

Seeding Depth:  
0.50" - 1.00" Depth

Min Time To Emergence:  
6 - 10

Planting Rate (Monoculture):  
5 Lb/A - 6 Lb/A

Tons of Dry Matter an Acre:  
6+ (under ideal growing conditions)

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