

Root Crops

Early Fold Root Mixture

Ref. MIXEF

Sown either in the spring for mid-summer grazing or after cereals for autumn/early winter use. This is a fast growing mixture capable of producing up to 45 tonnes per hectare with a dry matter content of 10% in approximately 10-12 weeks.

1.50 kg certified BARKANT stubble turnip
0.50 kg certified HOBSON forage rape

2.00 kg per acre £7.87 (5 kg/ha £19.68)

Hardy Root Mixture

Ref. MIXHR

A longer term mixture which is sown between April and the end of June. Needing 20 weeks or more to produce its full yield this crop will provide winter hardy keep until February or March.

0.60 kg certified MARIS KESTREL kale
0.70 kg certified MASSIF hardy turnip
0.20 kg certified GOWRIE swede

1.50 kg per acre £22.22 (3.75 kg/ha £55.55)

Stubble Turnips

Turnips are grown in most areas of the UK as a highly digestible catch crop. Stubble turnips have amazing initial growth capacity and produce crops within 9 - 12 weeks from sowing. Early sowing takes place in late April and produce heavy crops for fattening lambs weaned off grass from late June onwards. Sowing also takes place throughout the summer until late August for feed through until January. Broadcast 2 kg per acre or drill at 1.5 kg per acre. Hardy turnips* require a 20 week growing period and are sown from May - July.

Barkant	Stubble	£4.49/kg
Massif*	Hardy	£11.20/kg

Swedes

This crop is ideally suited to cooler, wetter parts of the north and west of Britain. Swedes are superior to turnips for frost hardiness and keeping quality. Sowing should take place from early April until mid-June. Swedes can be grazed in situ or lifted for later use from November to March. Graded seed, for precision drilling, is sown at 0.25 kg per acre. Natural seed should be sown at 1.5 kg per acre.

Gowrie £39.50/kg

Kale

Kale is the highest yielding brassica and being quite winter hardy can relieve pressure on winter forage. It has a high protein content and is usually grazed between September and March depending on sowing time. Kale is widely grown in England, Scotland and eastern parts of Wales. The seed is sown between April and early July. 20 weeks are required to grow a full crop. Choose Maris Kestrel for quality grazing or Thousand Head for game cover. 2 kg per acre.

Maris Kestrel	Leafy	£10.80/kg
Thousand Head	Tall	£8.80/kg

Forage Rape

Forage rape is a quick growing green forage, ideal for catch cropping. It is sown from April to August to provide forage 12 weeks later. It can be zero grazed but is usually grazed in situ. In most years it can be relied upon to produce forage until Christmas. Forage rape is also used as a nurse crop for establishing a new ley.

It makes an excellent feed for lambs and tolerates poor soils so can be used as a pioneer crop in upland situations. Sow at 4 kg per acre.

Hobson £2.19/kg

Mustard

Mustard is a quick growing cover crop which is not winter hardy. Sow at 8-10 kg per acre.

Asta £2.76/kg

Use

These brassica catch crops have been part of successful rotational farming for centuries. They can provide forage quickly and be available at times when grass leys are unproductive.

All these crops require adequate levels of soil fertility which can either be in the form of FYM or artificial fertiliser. As a rough guide these crops will remove 70 kg N, 40 kg P and 40 kg K per hectare.