



FORAGE RAPE

Why Grow Forage Rape?

- Fast growing leafy catch crop
- High protein content
- Longer lasting than stubble turnips
- Winter hardy varieties
- Fattening lambs
- Flexible sowing period
- Sheep, Dairy or Beef production

Typical Yields and Feed Quality

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Average Dry Matter yield | = 3.5 tonnes/ha |
| Average fresh yields | = 24-35 tonnes/ha |
| Dry Matter | = 12-14% |
| Crude protein | = 19-20% |
| Digestibility value | = 65D |
| Metabolisable energy | = 10-11 MJ/kg DM |



Typical Costs and Value

| | Total Costs |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Cost per acre | £169 (£418/ha) |
| Cost per tonne fresh weight | £12 |
| Cost per tonne utilised dry matter | £109 |
| Relative value £/tonne DM | £148 |
| Cost per litre of milk | 4.7p |
| Cost per kilo of live weight gain | 31.2p |



FORAGE RAPE

Sowing, Growing and Feeding

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| SOWING | Timing | After 1st cut or behind cereals, especially if they are taken early for whole crop. |
| | Period | After 1st cut, or behind cereals, especially if they are taken early for whole crop. |
| | Variety Selection | Choose varieties with good disease resistance, especially to powdery mildew. |
| | Sowing | Cultivate to achieve a fine, firm seedbed. Roll to ensure good seed–soil contact. Sow at a seed rate of 2.5 kg/ac (6.2kg/ha) if drilled or 4kg/ac (10kg/ha) if broadcast. |
| | Fertiliser | Lime at 1t/ac (2.4 t/ha) to keep pH between 6.0 and 6.5 Check P & K status and adjust accordingly. Muck should provide most of the nutrient requirements, though up to 100kg of N is required in total. Refer to DEFRA's RB209 for more details. |
| GROWING | Weeds | Make sure the seed bed is clean before sowing and monitor weed burden as the rape establishes as it is vulnerable to competition. |
| | Pests | Watch out for flea beetle attack, spray at the first sign of trouble. Look out for slug damage in direct drilled crops. |
| FEEDING | Method | Allow 13-15 weeks from sowing to feeding. Strip grazing cattle is essential to minimise waste, though sheep can be set stocked. |



FORAGE RAPE VARIETY SELECTION

Choose varieties to suit your desired grazing period

| VARIETY | GRAZING PERIOD REQUIRED | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|
| | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb |
| Hobson | ████████████████████ | | | | | | |
| Interval | | | ████████████████████ | | | | |
| Hungry Gap | | | | | ████████████████████ | | |

Variety Features and Benefits




HOBSON

Hobson is ideal for finishing lambs. Hobson has excellent **resistance to powdery mildew**, a disease which can make some crops unpalatable leading to a high wastage factor. Hobson is very palatable and digestible. Bred by Advanta and fully proven on livestock farms throughout the UK.



Interval

When it comes to filling the gap in your winter feed programme Interval rape/kale Hybrid can really boost your profits. Interval's **exceptional yield potential**, disease resistance and palatability is ideal for fattening lambs or 'flushing' ewes. Interval is very fast to establish with some crops ready to utilise within 10-12 weeks from sowing. Bred by  **scri** (using technology)



Hungry Gap

For later use, Hungry Gap's exceptional winter hardiness will ensure crops can be used into January and February. Hungry Gap is best sown in June or July.



FORAGE RAPE TRIAL DATA

| Variety | Total Dry Matter Yield % | Total Fresh Yield % | Dry Matter % | Powdery Mildew Resistance 9 = Best |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 100%=Tonnes/ha | 4.1 t/ha | 31.4 t/ha | | |
| Interval | 103 | 114 | 12.0 | 8 |
| Hobson | 100 | 100 | 13.2 | 8 |
| Sparta | 97 | 96 | 13.3 | 6 |
| Barsica | 95 | 99 | 12.7 | 7 |
| Emerald | 93 | 96 | 12.9 | 6 |
| Winfred | 93 | 95 | 12.9 | No data |

Data Source: Limagrain UK trials 1990 - 2008

Financial Value of Each Variety

| Variety | Dry Matter Yield % | Dry Matter Yield t/ha | Dry Matter Value £/ha | Extra £/ha against Hobson |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Interval | 103 | 4.22 | 625.00 | 18.20 |
| Hobson | 100 | 4.10 | 606.80 | 0.00 |
| Sparta | 97 | 3.98 | 588.60 | -18.20 |
| Barsica | 95 | 3.90 | 576.46 | -30.34 |
| Emerald | 93 | 3.81 | 564.32 | -42.48 |
| Winfred | 93 | 3.81 | 564.32 | -42.48 |

The dry matter value £/ha is calculated by using the Kingshay relative value of forage rape at £140 per tonne of dry matter.