

CROP DATA SHEET FOR SEED CROPS OF FODDER RAPE (BRASSICA NAPUS L)

FIELD SELECTION

Good, clean land which has never grown oil seed rape and has no serious weed problems such as Charlock, Cleavers, or bindweed.

ISOLATIONS

200 metres from species listed below, including volunteers growing in surrounding fields, set-a-side, verges etc. Crops of the same variety and kind may be grown in adjacent fields with a 2 metre gap between. Fodder Rape cross pollinates with other Rape species, Chinese Cabbage, Swede, Turnip, Turnip Rape, Brown and Black Mustard. Any volunteers of these species growing within the isolation distance must be controlled to prevent cross pollination during flowering, or the crop will fail field inspection.

PREVIOUS CROPPING

No Oil Seed Rape crops at all, no other variety of Fodder or Salad Rape in last 10 years, no other Brassica seed crops in last 5 years minimum, 7 to 10 years preferred.

SOWING

Mid-August to first week September at 1.5 - 2 kilos/acre, at an advised row width of 25 cm. Seed is treated with rovril/thiram/sepiret fungicide. Regret no approved insecticidal seed treatment is available for use on fodder rape at this time.

FERTILISER

Following are general guidelines for soil index 0, actual amounts should be tailored to soil type and fertility. Seedbed 50 kg N 75 kg each P & K per hectare (40/60/60 units/acre), spring top dressing up to 200 kg N per hectare (160 units/acre). Application of Boron in late autumn and just before flowering can be beneficial. An application of Sulphur in the spring is strongly recommended, deficiency will lead to loss in yield.

PESTS

Precautions should be taken against slugs and cabbage stem flea beetles in the autumn, pollen beetles and seed weevil during green bud, flowering stages. Pigeons will attack the crop until more attractive food becomes available in the spring; however most crops recover provided growing points have not been eaten.

FUNGICIDES

Fodder rapes have greater resistance to most diseases than oil seed rape. However, as with most brassica species Phoma and Sclerotinia can affect yield and quality if not controlled. An effective fungicide in the autumn, at stem extension and flowering is recommended.

HARVEST

Harvest mid-July after swath (preferred method). Collection ex farm in bulk after conditioning to maximum 9% moisture content.

ON FARM STORAGE

Farm storage must be clean, sound and dry - precautions must be taken to prevent contamination by vermin, birds and grain mites. Use of post-harvest chemicals without permission is not allowed.

YIELD

Average cleaned seed yield from Limagrains UK crops per hectare over the last ten years was 2,171 kilos, with individual crops producing 2,500 kilos.

PRICE

Contracts on offer are fixed, not options. Price on offer takes account of lower yield than oil seed rape, and is not linked to crushing or other values. A payment on account of 60% of estimated crop value will be paid on 1st October for any crops left on farm or not cleaned by 30th September in year of harvest provided the seed meets contract standards.