

## **CROP DATA SHEET FOR SEED CROPS OF SWEDE (BRASSICA NAPUS L NAPOBRASSICA)**

### **FIELD SELECTION**

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

### **ISOLATION**

200 metres minimum (400 metres preferred) from seed crops listed below including volunteers growing in surrounding fields set-a-side verges etc. Swede cross pollinates with Chinese Cabbage, Fodder Rape, Oilseed Rape, Turnip, Turnip Fodder & Oil Rape, Black Mustard, Brown Mustard & other Swedes. 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 or fodder rape crops at all, no other brassica seed crop in last 5 years (minimum requirement – 7 to 10 years preferred).

### **SOWING**

Mid-July to August at 1 to 2 kilos/acre in 25cm rows. Cultivations should be kept to a minimum to conserve moisture and reduce volunteers and weeds. The use of an effective pre-emergence herbicide is recommended. Seed is delivered treated with rovralt/thiram/sepiret fungicide only. No approved insecticidal seed treatment is available at this time.

### **FERTILISER**

Following are general guidelines for soil index 0, actual amounts applied should be tailored to your soil type and fertility. Seedbed 75 kg/ha each of N.P.K (60 units/acre), spring top dressing 87/112 kg/ha of N (70/90 units/acre). Swedes can be affected by Boron deficiency, applications in late autumn and spring can be beneficial. An application of sulphur in the spring is strongly recommended.

### **PESTS**

Precautions should be taken against slugs and flea beetle in the autumn, pollen beetle and seed weevil during green bud, flowering and pod set. Pigeons will attack the crop can be recovered with help from N applications, provided the growing points have not been eaten.

### **FUNGICIDES**

Application of an effective fungicide will be required in the autumn and spring to protect stem canker (which is a serious disease of swedes) in particular. Application at flowering and after petal fall to protect against Sclerotinia and Alternaria is also recommended.

### **HARVEST**

Usually mid-July after swath on high stubble when seed in middle pods has turned brown, and feels firm between the fingers. The swath is combined up to 14 days later when seed is blue/black and shows no trace of redness. Direct combining after the use of diquat is possible but swath is preferred.

### **YIELD**

Average yield over last 14 years from Limagrain UK was 1592 kilos per hectare with individual crops exceeding 2500 kilos.

### **PRICE**

Contracts on offer are fixed, not options, price reflects lower than oil seed rape yield and is not tied to crushing or oil values. Movement prompt after harvest at 9% moisture, payment prompt after cleaning.