

DATA SHEET FOR SEED CROPS OF TURNIP (BRASSICA RAPA L VAR RAPA)

FIELD SELECTION

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

ISOLATION

300 metres from species listed below, including volunteers' growing in surrounding fields, set-a-side, verges etc. Note also there is an additional isolation requirement of 600 metres from Turnip or Turnip Rape seed crops, twice the distance required for other Brassica seed crops. Crops of the same variety and kind may be grown in adjacent fields with a 2 metre gap between. Turnip cross pollinates with Chinese Cabbage, Fodder Rape, Oilseed Rape, Swede, Brown Mustard and Black Mustard. Any volunteers of these species growing within the isolation distance must be controlled to prevent cross pollination during flowering or the drop will fail field inspections.

PREVIOUS CROPPING

No oil or fodder rape seed rape crops at all, no other Brassica seed drop in last 5 years minimum, 7 to 10 years preferred.

SOWING

Normally in situ between mid-August and early September at 1 to 2 kilos per 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 roval/thiram/sepiret fungicide. There are no approved insecticidal seed treatments available for use on turnip seed at this time.

FERTILISER

Following are general guidelines for soil index 0, actual amounts applied should be tailored to soil type and fertility. Seedbed 75 kg/ha each of P & K (60 units/acre), spring top dressing 50/100 kg/ha of N (40/80 units/acre). Turnips can be affected by Boron deficiency, applications in late autumn and spring can be beneficial. Lack of Sulphur can have a serious effect on Turnip seed yields; a spring application is strongly recommended.

PESTS

Precautions should be taken against slugs and Flea Beetles in the autumn, Pollen Beetle 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 the growing points have not been eaten.

FUNGICIDES

Application of an effective fungicide will be required in the autumn, at stem extension, after petal fall to protect against stem canker and alternaria (the two most serious diseases).

HARVEST

Usually late June, mid July after swathing on a 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 has turned blue/black and traces of redness have disappeared.

YIELD

Average cleaned seed yield over last 9 years from Limagrain UK crops was 1374 kilos per hectare, with individual crops exceeding 2000 kilos per hectare.

CONTRACT PRICE AND MOVEMENT

Contracts on offer are fixed, not options. Collections ex farm prompt after harvest at maximum 9% moisture. Payment in the autumn after cleaning. Price on offer takes account of yield against other crops and is not tied to crushing or other values.