

# RAPESEED

- **Deep, fibrous root system, scavenging both nitrogen and soluble phosphorus**
- **Strong biomass production makes it great for fall and winter grazing**
- **Offers the most grazing cycles of brassica when planted in late summer/early fall**
- **Performs well in poor soil fertility conditions**
- **Likely to overwinter in Transition Zone and South**

## Description:

Rapeseed is an upright, cool season and/or winter annual broadleaf. Rapeseed is versatile enough to be planted in the spring for a summer cover, or may be utilized in the fall for a winter cover crop. Rapeseed works great as a dual-purpose crop, adapting to a wide range of soil types and conditions. Rapeseed tends to be extremely drought-tolerant and stands frost better than many brassicas. Because of its winter hardiness, it's common for growers to get multiple grazing cycles when feeding rapeseed.

## Non-Forage Benefits:

1 = Poor; 5 = Excellent

- **Compaction Alleviation:** 5
- **Weed Suppression:** 3
- **Biomass Production:** 4
- **Erosion Control:** 4
- **Disease/Pest Control:** 4
- **Pollinator/Beneficials:** 4
- **P & K Cycling:** 4
- **Ease of Establishment:** 5

**Planting Time:** Apr-May; Aug-Sept

## Seeding Rate:

**Mono (lbs/acre):** 4-6

**Mix (lbs/acre):** 2-4

**Forage (lbs/acre):** 6-8

## Seeding Info:

**Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio (C:N):** 20:1-22:1

**Seeding Depth (in./with drill):** 1/4-1/2

**Seeds/lb.:** 145,000

**Bulk Density (lbs./ft.<sup>3</sup>):** 45

**Aerial Application Rate:** 5-8

**Germination Soil Temp.:** 41 F

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 5

**Days to Emergence:** 4-10

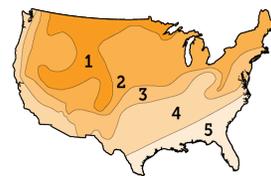
## Considerations:

- Rapeseed can be more difficult to control with glyphosate
- Prefers soils with a pH 5.8 – 8.0
- Rapeseed may attract some non-beneficial pests
- Brassica crops can cause animal health disorders if not grazed properly. Introduce grazing animals to brassica pastures slowly (usually over 3-5 days). With extremely high forage values, brassicas can cause problems if hungry animals are turned out into predominate brassica pastures. Even though traditional recommendations allow for 2/3, we actually recommend keeping brassicas to under 1/3 of the grazing animal's diet- always supplement brassicas with dry hay or other grasses (higher in fiber).



## Planting Window

1. No later than August 20
2. No later than September 1
3. No later than September 10
4. No later than September 20
5. No later than October 1



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