

Forage Turnips

Victoria Soil & Crop Local Project

Purpose:

To evaluate the use of Forage Turnips as a pasture substitute as a means of extending the pasture season.

Results:

In 2005 (5 cooperators) and 2006 (4 cooperators) participated in the project.

2005—5 co-operators, purple top, good success, but maybe a better variety

2006 - 4 co-operators, 3 varieties - Purple Top, Dynamo, Barkant

Mid Summer Planting = after mid July and before mid August

- after cereal baleage or winter wheat

David McKague—Turnips seeded after cereal baleage, but with foxtail pressure he baled and wrapped the foxtail with the turnip tops, and then grazed turnips late Oct/Nov using electric fence feeder



Controlled fencing used to introduce the cattle to the turnips

Different leaf structures were observed from the 3 varieties





Gail Johnson plots planted after grazing fall rye, July 24, seed 4 lb/ac. On left root comparison after 70 days, above October 10, 4 samples note blight is appearing on purple top from each plot were harvested

Yield of Tops & Bulbs Peter Peeters, Oct 26, 2006 Planted July 25, seed 3 lb/ac			
Variety		% DM	Kg DM/Ac
Purple Top	Tops	13.2	1996
	Bulbs	10.7	1950
Total			3946
Barkant	Tops	11.8	2729
	Bulbs	9.4	1596
Total			4325
Dynamo	Tops	10.7	2112
	Bulbs	8.9	1515
Total			3627

Summary

Forage Turnips are an excellent option for late season forage. Be sure to plant into a fine firm seed bed with 2 lbs of seed/ac. Timed before a rain event is ideal. Target a July planting if possible to minimize seedling competition. Be prepared to scout for flea beetles. The results were not significantly better for the two newer varieties tested this year (Dynamo and Barkant) over Purple Top. Purple top is a few days earlier and seed is cheaper.

Project Contacts:

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