

Barnapoli

Forage Rape

(*Brassica napus*)

Brassicas

Forages of the Brassica family are very useful for extending the grazing season when other forages are less productive. Brassicas can provide higher crude protein and digestibility at half the cost of hay or conserved forages. Brassicas have extremely high yield potential when grown on high fertility soils and carefully managed. Brassicas can produce as much as 40 tons (wet) per acre. Cold, drought and heat tolerant, these crops commonly provide valuable feed when other crops are less productive. The species commonly used for animal consumption are: Rape (Barnapoli), Turnip (Barkant), Kale (Kapeti) and Swedes (Highlander).

Brassica	Plant in	Seeding rate	Days to grazing	Graze
Rape	June/July/Aug	3 pounds /acre	80-95 days	Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov
Turnip	June/July/Aug	2-3 pounds /acre	60-90 days	Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov
Kale	June/July	4-5 pounds /acre	110-150 days	Nov/Dec/Jan
Swede	June-July	1 pound per acre	150+ days	Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb

Mr. Bartholomew of Ohio State Extension is doing trial work with Brassicas in Ohio. He planted a trial with 13 different Brassicas on July 31 1997. The Brassicas were grazed with lambs. The lambs were allowed to graze for 3 days and then moved onto the next set of trials. The grazing occurred approximately 75 days after planting. At the end of the grazing period, the plots were visually scored as to the percentage of plant material that had been consumed (volunteer dry matter intake).

Brassicas grazing trial 1997, percentage of the DM consumed

Cultivar	Rep 1	Rep 2	Rep 3	Rep 4	MEAN
Barnapoli rape	80	80	83	70	78.3
Rangiora rape	65	65	65	70	66.3
Highlander swede	70	50	60	80	65.0
Premier kale	70	70	75	45	65.0
Dwarf Essex rape	70	65	70	50	63.8
Kapeti kale	50	35	35	25	36.3
Pasja hybrid	25	35	30	30	30.0
Barkant turnip	15	10	10	10	11.3
Barabas turnip	10	10	15	5	10.0
Tyfon turnip	5	10	10	3	7.0
Civasto turnip	10	8	5	5	7.0

Henry M. Bartholomew, Ohio State Extension

Comment of associate professor Bartholomew:

"In general it can be observed that the rape and kale were preferred over the turnips. Barnapoli rape was most preferred overall. The Barnapoli rape was highly prized by the lambs with all of the leaves and much of the stems being consumed before either rape or kale were hardly touched. We sampled the stem and found it to be quite tender, sweet and rather like celery. Dwarf Essex rape, Premier kale, Rangiora rape and Highlander swede were all highly accepted with Kapeti kale and Pasja rape being intermediate. It was surprising that the swede was desired so much more than the turnips since both have bulbs and look quite similar. It was also interesting that the turnips were treated with such disregard compared to the rape and kale."

Management

Within the Brassicas, Rape is one of the quickest to establish. Rape also has the potential of being regrazed. The first grazing however, will be the most important one. Rape can be grazed by sheep and cattle. It is important not to graze too large of an area at once. Strip-grazing prevents both yield and quality losses due to tramping and polluting. It is also important not to overfeed the cattle when they are allowed to graze the Rape at first. Too high dry matter intake of Rape (and other Brassicas) can cause serious health problems. Therefore, cattle should be allowed to adjust to the change of diet. Supplementing with other forages with less protein and sugars will also prevent problems.

Planting and Establishment

Barnapoli requires good soil drainage and a pH between 5.3 and 6.8. Seed should be planted in a firm, moist, seedbed. Barnapoli can be broadcasted or drilled with 6 to 8 inch rows at 3 pounds per acre. It is very important not to plant the seed too deep, one eighth of an inch will work best. Rape has a fibrous root system, which will add organic matter to the soil after it has been grazed. Brassicas should be planted no longer than 2 consecutive years to prevent disease and pest problems.

BARENBRUG USA

PO Box 239, Tangent, OR 97389

Phone: 800-547-4101 Fax: 541-926-9435

www.barusa.com / info@barusa.com