

Stubble Turnips Crop Husbandry

Dry Matter yield:	3 – 4 t/ha
Fresh yield:	35 – 40 t/ha
Dry Matter:	8 – 9 %
Crude Protein:	17 – 18 %



Stubble Turnips are an excellent catch crop which can produce nutritious, highly palatable feed in just 12-14 weeks after sowing. The crop can be sown in spring for feeding in late summer or sown in July / August for feeding in October to February. They are not very winter hardy and losses will occur in frosty weather.

Sowing period: April to June for feeding in July to September
July to August for feeding in October to February

Seeding rates: Seeding rate depends on sowing conditions and method of sowing. Fine and firm seedbed required similar to grass reseeding.

Broadcast: 8 kg/ha (3 kg/acre).

Direct drill: 5 kg/ha (2 kg/acre)

Varieties:

TYFON : A variety with dark purple skin and globe-shaped roots that consistently yields well. This is the usual choice for animal consumption.

DELILAH : Very high yielding variety. Ideal for fattening lambs and will produce huge white tankard shaped bulbs. Leaf growth will be about 40% of total dry matter. Resistant to mildew.

BARKANT : High yielding variety. Leaf growth will be 60-70% of total yield.

Lime: Target pH of 6.5-7.0

Fertiliser: N 70-90 kg/ha (56-72 units/Ac); P 20-30 kg/ha (16-24 units/Ac); K 40-60 kg/ha (32-48 units/Ac).
eg. 4 x 50 kg/Ac 18-6-12

Weed Control: Normally none. Could use Butisan S within 48 hours after sowing.

Pest problems: Flea Beetles, Slugs and Leatherjackets are the most likely pests.

Disease: Club root – Good crop rotation will avoid the problem
Powdery Mildew - susceptible especially in early sown crops

Feeding Information: Stubble turnips are usually utilized by ewes and lambs or by fattening lambs. Utilization of bulbs by sheep and cattle can be poor especially if bulb size is small. Strip grazing works best and it is important to introduce stock gradually. Stock take about three weeks to adjust to stubble turnips in the diet. Sheep or cattle will both need a source of roughage, i.e. grass, hay, straw or silage. Minerals also need to be supplemented.