

Swedes Crop Husbandry

Dry Matter yield:	6 – 9 t/ha
Fresh yield:	60 – 90 t/ha
Dry Matter:	8 – 10 %
Crude Protein:	10 – 11 %



Swedes like oats prefer a cool moist climate and have good winter hardiness. When grown under dry conditions yields can be low. In areas where there is little sunshine Swedes do better than fodder beet. The crop can be grazed in situ, especially suitable for sheep. It can be harvested, stored and fed whole or chopped. Some varieties are grown for human consumption.

Sowing period: April to June. Swedes for human consumption can be sown from early April. Optimum sowing time for animal feed is mid May.

Seeding rates: Seeding rate depends on sowing conditions, type of seed and method of sowing

Broadcast: RUTA OTOFTE (Ordinary Seed) at 5kg/ha (2kg/acre).

Precision Drill: Magres, Marian & Gowrie at 0.5 - 1.0kg/ha (0.2 - 0.4kg/acre)

Varieties:

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

MAGRES : Good yield and good resistance to powdery mildew. Dark purple skin which suits the fresh market.

MARIAN : Medium dry matter with purple skin and globe shaped roots

GOWRIE : Similar variety to Magres. It can produce high dry matter yields and exhibits good resistance to both club root and powdery mildew.

Lime: Target pH of 6.2-7.0

Fertiliser: NPK requirements depend on soil analysis and boron must be applied.
N 40-90 kg/ha (32-72 units/Ac); P 40-70 kg/ha (32-56 units/Ac);
K 60-100 kg/ha (48-80 units/Ac). e.g. 7 x 50 kg/Ac 8-5-18+Boron

Weed Control: Choice of herbicides includes Butisan S, Fusilade Max, Stratos Ultra and Dow Shield 100.

Pest problems: Flea Beetles, Slugs, Cabbage Aphids and Leatherjackets are the most likely pests. Insecticide products approved include Decis EC. Cabbage Root Fly can also cause problems in crops for human consumption.

Disease: Club root – Very susceptible to attack, good crop rotation will avoid the problem. Powdery Mildew – Variety choice important. Control with Folicur at 1L/ha

Feeding Most Swedes grown in Ireland are grazed in situ by sheep, but some are pulled and fed to cattle.

Information: Swedes taint milk and should be fed to cows in limited amounts after milking. Teeth losses in sheep can be a problem. Swedes are low in protein and roughage therefore it is important to ensure that diets are balanced properly. Silage or hay should always be part of the diet and extra protein supplementation may be required. Ensure sufficient minerals are being fed.