Brassica Forage Crop Guide

Includes: Sorghum & Chicory Options
Let’s grow together

Planning your forage and seed requirements in advance can make a big difference to your productivity and financial returns. For over 70 years, Wrightson Seeds has been working with Australian farmers to get the balance right.

Supported by Research and Development facilities across Australia, in New Zealand and with major international associates, our field teams continue to lead the way in plant genetics. The aim being to improve animal performance per hectare, rather than just crop performance per hectare.

Selecting superior dry matter production is integral to this. Key performance characteristics include improved digestibility and leafiness, increased sugar levels and palatability, and enhanced rumen efficiency.

Forage Brassicas Performance bred™ to keep you ahead

Forage brassica crops are the ideal complementary feed, especially when grass quality and quantity declines in summer. Having high feed value and yield, brassica can also play an important role in pasture renewal.

Delivering a growing edge

Brassica crops have the ability to:

- Out-compete ‘bought in feeds’ as a cost-effective source of dry matter
- Produce large quantities of feed for a relatively low cost of production
- Be grazed where they are grown, thereby eliminating additional costs associated with hay, silage and grain
- Break the perennial weed cycle using non-selective herbicides leading to weed-free pastures
- Break clover pest and disease lifecycles (eg Nematodes/viruses) for better clover content in subsequent pastures
- Break the wild endophyte cycle for sowing of novel endophyte grass seed
- Have no significant increase in labour requirements

Get in the know

To discuss your growth plans, call your local Pasture and Crop Specialist now on 1800 619 910

Sign up to our E-newsletter when you visit wrightsonseeds.com.au
Creating a successful growth plan

Here is a simple checklist to help ensure you give your brassica crop the best possible head start. To decide on the most suitable variety, it is important to first answer the following questions.

- When do you need your crop for grazing?
- How many grazings do you require?
- What level of animal production is required?
- What is the fertility status of the paddock?

Performance Checklist

- Select under performing paddocks
- Soil test 6–8 weeks prior to sowing
- Apply fertiliser and lime as per soil test recommendations
- Lime takes time to change soil pH (soil incorporation will increase rate of reaction)
- Weed control - aim to control all weeds prior to sowing
- Sowing - sow the seed at approximately 1–2 cm deep into a fine, firm seedbed
- Use Ultrastrike® treated seed for insect and disease control at establishment
- Beware of potential for higher insect pressure in direct drilled crops eg globe bulb turnip

Forage Brassesicas

LEAFY TURNIPS

Multi-graze option (eg Pasja, Appin). Quick spring, summer and autumn feed, providing up to 3–4 grazings. Very low ripening requirement. More prone to summer moisture deficit than Forage Rapes because of a less prominent tap root.

Forage Rapes

Forage Rapes provide leafy, high quality feed at later dates than hybrid leafy turnips. Forage Rapes generally grow more dry matter from each grazing than leafy turnips. However they generally provide fewer grazings in total than leafy turnips. Plant breeders have introduced kale genetics into Forage Rapes to increase aphid and pest tolerance, frost tolerance and general hardiness. There are two maturity groups in Forage Rapes: 70–90 days (early maturing: eg Maxima Plus, Titan) and 90–110 days (late maturing: eg Goliath®).

TURNIP (Tankard or globe bulb)

Tankard type summer turnips are popular as a milking feed due to exceptionally high yield potential from a single graze. They also have good leaf to bulb ratio, hence Barkant is a high quality feed so has good utilisation and reduced wastage. Early maturing turnips provide summer feed to add to pastures for milk production for dry cows (eg Barkant™).

Late maturing turnips (120 days eg Green Globe) provide autumn/early winter feed for young stock, milking or dry cows.
Seed Menu

Leafy Turnips
Forage Rapes
Bulb Turnips
Forage Sorghums
Silage Mix
Chicory

Improving your strike rate

Seed treatment is recommended to enhance crop establishment.

Wrightson Seeds has over 40 years experience in this highly specialised area and recommend Ultrastrike® treatment for brassica, chicory and sorghum.

ULTRASTRIKE®

Ultrastrike® is a broad spectrum ‘filmcote’ seed treatment that will provide establishing seedlings with a comprehensive protection package.

Ultrastrike® Brassica contains:

• A systemic insecticide for protection against Red Legged Earth Mite and Blue Oat Mite.

Ultrastrike® Brassica also contains:

• Fungicide effective against the ‘Damping off’ diseases Pythium and Fusarium
• Molybdenum, an essential trace element for general brassica growth and to reduce the risk of ‘Whiptail’.
• Chicory seed is protected using Ultrastrike® Brassica style treatment.

Pasja

Pasja is an early maturing 42-60 day hybrid leafy turnip. Pasja crops are best utilised when strip grazed and fed with dry summer pasture. Pasja can be grazed when needed - suitable for all livestock.

Pasja features:

• Ready to graze in 42-60 days
• Flexible grazing window
• Multiple grazing option, bulb strongly anchored in ground
• Very high leaf yield

Appin

Appin leafy turnip has a very high initial growth rate up until first grazing (60 days from sowing). Tops can be grazed initially, then regrowth and bulbs after a short spell.

Appin features:

• Ready to graze in 60-90 days
• Very high first grazing yield in winter
• Plant in autumn or spring
• Multiple crowns on each bulb aids high regrowth potential
• Tops and bulb highly palatable for sheep and cattle

Graze as early as six weeks after sowing. Rapid regrowth for flexible and multiple grazings.

Pasja leafy turnip performance bred

Appin leafy turnip performance bred

Leafy Turnips
Goliath® is a tall erect forage rape with upright succulent leaves. In trials it has out-yielded Rangi by up to 21% and can grow waist high. Goliath® has phenomenal regrowth. Best suited for multiple strip grazing by cattle or sheep grazing.

**Goliath features:**
- Ready to graze in 90 – 110 days
- Forage rape kale cross improves hardiness and provides increased aphid tolerance
- Very high yield potential
- Tall erect plant with succulent leaves
- Good aphid and pest tolerance
- Sow spring (Aug-Dec) or autumn (Feb-Apr)

Titan is a high yielding, intermediate height forage rape with succulent leaves. It has excellent regrowth potential and is suitable for multi-grazing by cattle or sheep. In comparative evaluation trials, Titan demonstrates excellent stock preference to grazing Titan over other forage rape varieties.

**Titan features:**
- Ready to graze in 70-90 days
- Forage rape kale cross improves hardiness and provides increased aphid tolerance
- Very high yield and high regrowth potential
- Increased preference to grazing
- High aphid and virus tolerance
- Multi-graze with sheep or cattle
- Sow spring (Aug-Dec) or autumn (Feb-Apr)

EMX 1.6 is high yielding, fine stemmed forage rape.

**EMX 1.6 features:**
- Ready to graze in 90 – 110 days
- High yielding
- Very palatable for lambs, sheep and cattle
- Suits livestock finishing systems
- Tolerant to wingless grasshopper

Maxima Plus is used for livestock finishing during summer - up to two full grazings. It is a robust variety that tolerates tough growing conditions.

**Maxima Plus features:**
- Ready to graze in 70-90 days
- Very palatable; in NZ trials livestock will preferentially graze over other rapes
- Tolerates low fertility and some moisture stress
- Moderately tolerant to aphids
Forage Sorghums

Bulb Turnips

Ultrastrike® treated seed recommended
Hardy tankard turnip used as a standing feed crop.

Barkant™ is a high yielding tankard bulb turnip with large upright leaf tops. It is early maturing and therefore a better option than grain for summer-autumn milk production.

Barkant™ features:
• Ready to graze in 70-90 days
• High leaf to bulb ratio
• Large upright succulent leaf tops
• Consistently high yielding
• While yield and feed quality usually peak around 90 days, Barkant™ is often carried through until 120 days before grazing. For grazing beyond 120 days a harder bulb turnip like Green Globe is recommended

Green Globe

Ultrastrike® treated seed recommended
Green Globe is a late maturing traditional white turnip with a globe shaped bulb.

Green Globe can be sown as a separate complementary crop to Barkant™ turnip to extend the grazing window from mid-summer to autumn. In areas that have long growing seasons, it can be summer sown to provide winter feed.

Green Globe features:
• Ready to graze 90-120 days
• High utilisation (less wastage)
• Similar yield to Barkant™
• Can be sown from spring to early autumn

Pronto®

Ultrastrike® treated seed recommended
Early maturity, Sudan grass sorghum type for grazing, silage and hay.

Pronto® features:
• Ready to graze in 42-50 days
• Reliable and affordable
• Low prussic acid levels
• Fine stemmed leafy forage
• Ideal for early grazing at 1m height
• Cut for quality hay before growth exceeds 1.5-2m

Unearth more.

To go deeper into the performance characteristics and technical specifications of individual products, simply go to the Wrightson Seeds website. The quick reference product menu will connect you exactly with what you need to know in an instant. Saving you valuable growing time.

wrightsonseeds.com.au
**Hi Gain® BMR**

- Ready to graze in 70 days
- Brown Mid Rib - higher digestibility and energy
- Grows to 3m tall
- White grain head
- Bred for the silage market
- Makes good hay if cut early (1-1.5m)
- BMR genetics improve feed value

**Super Spring™**

- Ready to cut in 80-100 days
- Sowing window from Jul-Nov
- Excellent high yielding silage crop to precede summer forage crop
- Rapidly produces large bulk, high quality feed

**Sweet Eat BMR**

- Ready to graze in 90-110 days
- Brown Mid Rib - higher digestibility and energy
- Oversized, succulent and palatable leaves
- For stand over grazing late summer-early autumn
- Excellent for pit or wrap silage
- Grows to 3m tall

**Ultrastrike® treated seed recommended**

- Produces enormous bulk of high quality forage.

**Puna II**

- Ready to graze in 90-110 days
- Highly nutritious and semi winter-active persistent, productive, perennial herb
- Resists most common brassica pests
- Flexible livestock grazing options
- Quick regrowth

**Silage Mix**

- Pea and oat bulk silage crop delivers up to 10t DM/ha.

**Chicory**

- For stand over grazing late summer-early autumn
- Excellent for pit or wrap silage
- Grows to 3m tall

**Highly nutritious, digestible herb.**

Puna II is a perennial semi-erect broad leaf herb. Ideal in a pasture mix, its deep taproot enables it to accumulate beneficial minerals for livestock nutrition. Puna II is very versatile and can be grazed year round. Best sown during spring.
## Brassica Forage Selection Guide

### Spring and Summer Grazing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Grazing</th>
<th>Fast</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Long</th>
<th>Long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product</td>
<td>PASJA</td>
<td>BARKANT™</td>
<td>MAXIMA PLUS</td>
<td>TITAN</td>
<td>GOLIATH®</td>
<td>EMX1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety</td>
<td>Hybrid Leafy Turnip</td>
<td>Turnip (tankard)</td>
<td>Forage Rape</td>
<td>Forage Rape</td>
<td>Forage Rape</td>
<td>Forage Rape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sowing Rate (kg/ha)</td>
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<td>1–2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>3–4</td>
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<td>Minimum soil temperature at planting*</td>
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<td>Days to grazing</td>
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<td>70–90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripening requirement</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regrowth ability†</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock options</td>
<td>sheep, beef, dairy</td>
<td>dairy</td>
<td>sheep, beef</td>
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<td>sheep, beef</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grazing method</td>
<td>rotational, strip or set stock</td>
<td>strip graze</td>
<td>rotational, strip</td>
<td>rotational, strip</td>
<td>rotational, strip</td>
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<tr>
<td>ME (MJ/kg DM)</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crude Protein (%)</td>
<td>Leaf</td>
<td>10–16</td>
<td>10–14</td>
<td>10–14</td>
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<td>10–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stem/bulb</td>
<td>12–22</td>
<td>15–24</td>
<td>15–24</td>
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</table>

### Autumn and Winter Grazing

<table>
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<th>Time to Grazing</th>
<th>Fast</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Long</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Turnip (globe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sowing Rate (kg/ha)</td>
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<td>0.8–2.0</td>
<td>3–4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum soil temperature at planting*</td>
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<td>12°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Days to grazing</td>
<td>42–60</td>
<td>60–90</td>
<td>70–90</td>
<td>90–120</td>
<td>90–110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripening requirement</td>
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<td>low</td>
<td>moderate</td>
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† regrowth ability is based on adequate moisture, nutrients and grazing management.

* soil temperature taken at 9am at 10 cm depth.