



## PURPLE TOP TURNIPS

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

### AT A GLANCE

- Reach maximum production levels between 70 to 90 days
- Part of the brassica family, and used as cover crop worldwide
- Can also be used for grazing livestock and wildlife when mature, depending on weather

### PLANTING DETAILS

- Should be planted from April 15 to September 15 north of interstate 94.
- High seed count per lb of 200k seed per pound
- Seeding rates vary based on whether it's incorporated or aerial seeded, but should be around 2lbs/acre
- Wait to plant until soil is 45 degrees, leaving ample time for turnips to reach full potential before they winterkill when soil reaches 20 degrees

### ABOUT PURPLE TOP TURNIPS

- Part of the brassica family; related to mustards found in Western Asia & Europe as wildtypes
- By 1881 turnips were being grown throughout the world
- Quick growth makes turnips a great crop to plant a bit later into the season than many other cover crops

### BENEFITS

#### Reduce Compaction, Provide Nutrients

The large roots of the turnips make it excellent at breaking up compaction, and scavenging for nutrients.

#### Crop Breakdown

When turnips winterkill, biomass breaks down and releases nutrients into the zone of cash crops.

#### Grazing

When given enough time for growth, purple top turnips are an excellent grazing species for both livestock and wildlife; typically between May and August depending on the weather.



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