

Fodder Crops

As livestock production continues to face new challenges, every opportunity to reduce costs should be exploited in order to remain competitive. Fodder crops such as kale, forage rape, stubble turnips, swedes, forage rye and fodder beet offer the dairy, beef and sheep farmer low cost feeding options.

Stubble Turnips

Vollenda

- High dry matter and yields making it suitable for use between November and January
- Good resistance to clubroot

Appin

- A fast growing, leafy grazing turnip providing a rapid source of palatable, easy to digest fodder for sheep and cattle
- Multicrowned
- Good regrowth potential
- Sow 8-10 weeks before feed is required

Kale

Maris Kestrel

- A leafy hybrid variety with short stems
- Bred for low stem fibre content and high digestibility
- Resistant to lodging
- Good winter hardiness

Rape

Stego

- Rape, with the highest protein of any fodder crop, makes it well suited to fattening lambs
- Extremely high yielding variety
- Excellent disease resistance, especially to mildew
- Extremely digestible stems, which allows complete use of the whole stem

Swedes

- Northern Ireland with a cool, moist climate is ideally suited to the production of swedes
- They have a low production cost per kg of DM combined with high ME and D-values

Fodder Beet

- When compared with other forage crops DM and energy yield is among the highest per acre
- Well suited to a variety of soil types, but a light to medium free draining soil is preferable
- Good accessibility is essential if heavy harvesting machinery is to be used. If possible avoid steep slopes
- Ideally fields should have been ploughed in the late autumn, early winter thus ensuring minimum moisture loss
- Soil profile – fine, firm, free draining and non-compacted

Fodder Beet Trial (Morton's On Farm Trial 2010)

Variety	Washed t/ac	Havertable Washed t/ac	DM Content (%)	DM Yield (% of Magnum)	GJ/Acre (% of Magnum)
Magnum (early sown)	40.9	40.1 (107.9)			
Magnum	41.5	37.2 (100.0)	17.5	6.51 (100.0)	85.28 (100.0)
Beretta	31.4	29.3 (78.8)	24.4	7.14 (109.7)	97.1 (113.8)
Gerty	40.6	38.7 (104.0)	23.1	8.93 (137.1)	121.45 (142.4)

Fodder Feeding Summary

	DM Yield T/Ha	ME Value Mj/KG DM	CP Value %	D-Value	Feeding	Type of Stock most suited
Stubble Turnips	4 to 6	11	17.5	69	Strip Graze	Dairy / Sheep
Kale	8 to 10	10.5	16.5	68	Strip or Zero	Dairy / Sheep / Beef
Rape	5 to 10	10.5	19.5	65	Strip Graze	Sheep / Beef / Dairy
Swedes	8 to 9.5	12.9	10.5	82	Graze or Lift	Sheep / Beef
Forage Rye	5 to 6	10	11.5	-	Strip or Zero	Dairy / Sheep
Forage Beet	10 to 14	13	12.5	78	Graze or Lift	Dairy / Beef

Fodder Crops Yields

	Typical Fresh Yield t/ac	Typical DM Yield t/ac	Potential DM Yield t/ac
Wholecrop Cereals	12	4.2	6.0
Grass Silage 1 cut	10	2.0	3.0
Grass silage 3 cuts	19	5.0	7.0
Maize	18	5.4	6.6
Kale	16	2.5	4.0
Fodder Beet Roots only	25	4.5	6.5
Fodder Beet Roots + tops	25+6	5.5	8.0

Feeding Guide Estimator

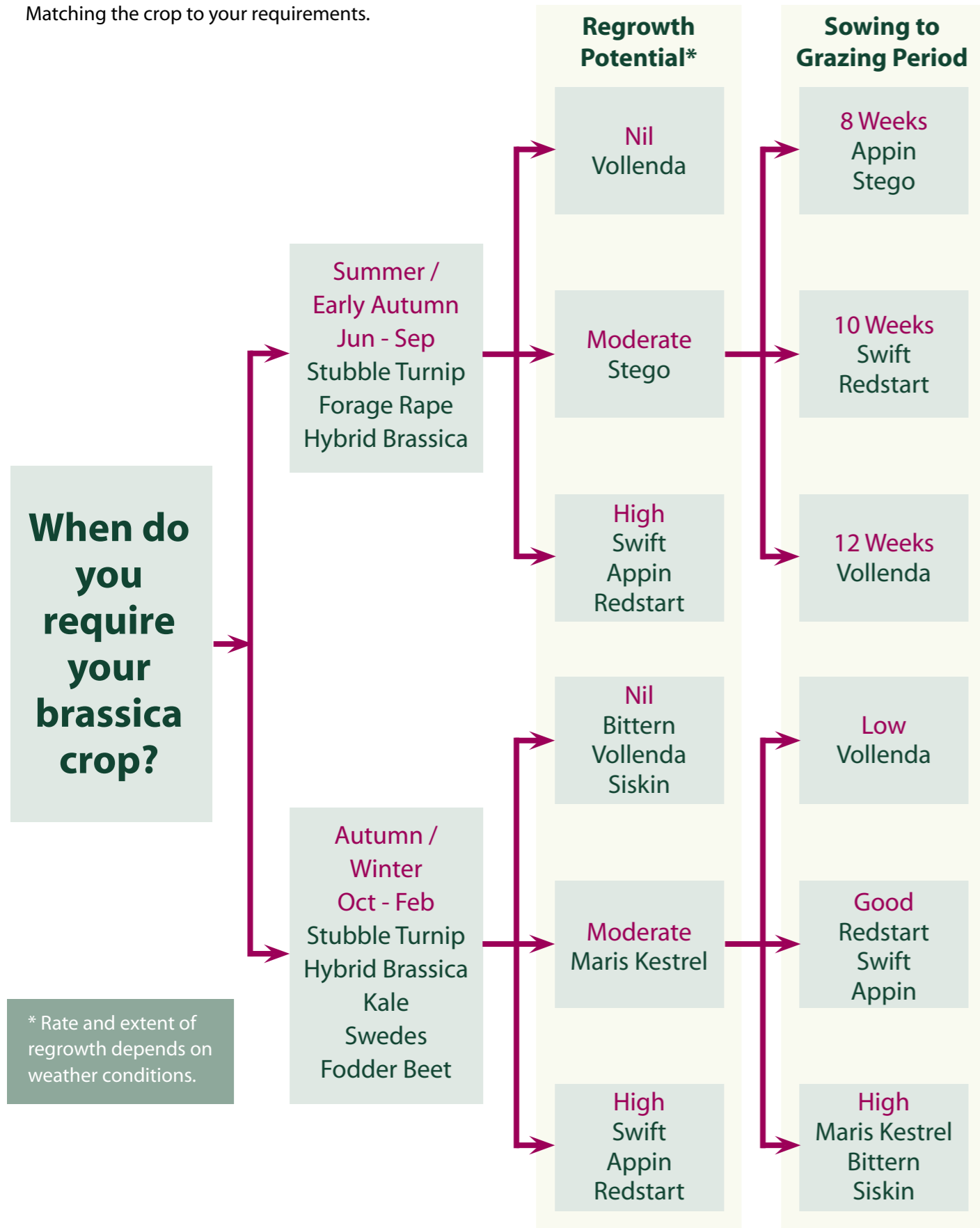
Stubble Turnips	One acre can feed forty lambs for two months
Kale	One acre feeds 20 cows for two months
Rape	In general, one acre can feed thirty lambs for one month
Grazing Rye	One acre will provide a three-week grazing period in early spring for 6-7 cows and 25-30 sheep



Fodder Crops

Planning Your Brassica Crops

Matching the crop to your requirements.



6 Golden Rules for Forage Crops



1. Run back



2. No tractors in winter



3. Feed fibre



4. Move electric fence everyday



5. Always clear the area



6. Always graze on longer axis

