

Subzero

HYBRID FORAGE BRASSICA
: *Brassica napus*



Quick Seed Facts



Lifespan

- ⌚ 10–18 months

Time to first grazing

- ⌚ 8–12 weeks

Minimum rainfall

- ⌚ 350mm

Sowing rate

- ⌚ Dryland: 3kg/ha
- ⌚ High rainfall/irrigation: 5kg/ha

Seed/kg

- ⌚ Approx 300,000

Suitability

- ⌚ Grazing

Seed treatment

- ⌚ XLR8®

Subzero is a long-season hybrid forage brassica with improved cold tolerance. This kale/turnip hybrid offers multiple grazing opportunities and delivers exceptional total dry matter yield. It is ideal for both spring and autumn sowing, providing a resilient and nutritious forage solution year-round.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- ⊕ **Quick to establish with warm soils**
Quicker to the first grazing (stock on it sooner) compared to longer maturing types
- ⊕ **Retains and holds quality once ripe**
Allowing flexibility in grazing management
- ⊕ **Excellent regrowth after grazing**
Provides multiple grazings without the need to resow after each graze

STRENGTHS

- ⊕ High forage quality and yields
- ⊕ Cost effective option, low sowing rates
- ⊕ Fast establishing taproot makes it a safer option than cereals for early planting
- ⊕ Good drought tolerance
- ⊕ In cooler climates with a spring sowing can provide feed till the following spring
- ⊕ Withstands frosts as a mature plant

LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Susceptible to moth and caterpillar damage
- ▶ Cattle require fibre supplementation

WHERE IT GROWS

Rainfall: Subzero hybrid forage brassica is adapted to a wide variety of climates, from summer dominant to winter dominant rainfall areas, receiving 350–800mm annual rainfall. It requires some rain or irrigation to perform best if grown over summer.

Soils: Subzero can be grown in a wide range of soil types, but for best performance choose paddocks with good soil fertility and depth. Avoid shallow soils and waterlogged areas. A soil test should be taken to determine soil acidity and fertility for nutrient and lime requirements. In highly acidic soils (pH below 4.5 (CaCl₂)), lime should be applied several weeks before sowing brassicas.

Temperature: Ideal sowing conditions are when the soil temperature is 10°C and rising.

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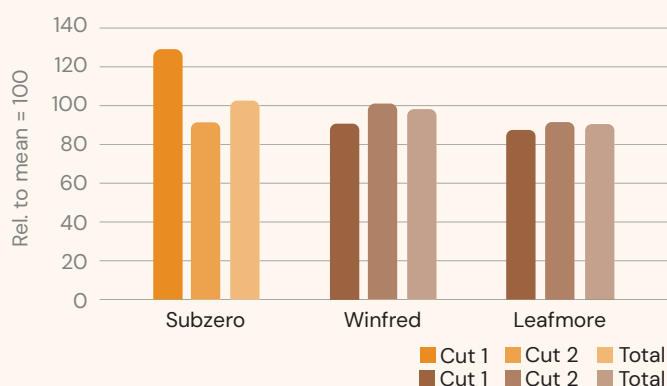


Plant with
confidence

DATA

Breeza Forage Brassica Trial 2023

Comparison of autumn sown Subzero, Winfred and Leafmore forage brassicas



ESTABLISHMENT

Performance optimisation or limitations for your soil type can be discussed with your local agronomist.

Sowing time: Subzero hybrid forage brassica can be sown from August to November and February to April for optimum growth rates. Consult your local agronomist or AlfaGen Seeds Territory Manager for your ideal sowing time.

Inoculation: Not required.

COMPANION SPECIES

- ⊕ Forage cereals
- ⊕ Winter legumes
- ⊕ Pasture grasses
- ⊕ Clover & pasture legumes
- ⊕ Forage herbs & brassica

MANAGEMENT

Maintenance fertiliser: Subzero is very responsive to fertiliser applications. Good nutrition is required to maximise production through optimising yield and forage quality.

Grazing/cutting: When planted in optimal conditions, Subzero forage brassica will reach grazing maturity 8–12 weeks after sowing. Grazing should only begin once the plants have fully matured, as indicated by the leaves turning a purple, reddish, or bronze colour. Subzero forage brassica demonstrates excellent regrowth after grazing, enabling multiple grazings throughout the season.

Ability to spread: Limited.

Weed potential: Very low.

Major pests: Seedlings are very susceptible to insect damage especially by earth mites, slugs and lucerne flea. Other pests such as cabbage white butterfly, cabbage moth, diamond back moth, cutworms, cabbage centre grub and wingless grasshoppers can reduce yield by eating leaves. Regular monitoring is recommended, please consult your local agronomist.

Major diseases: Blackleg (*Leptosphaeria maculans*), Sclerotinia stem rot (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*), Club Root (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) and Beet Western Yellows Virus.

Herbicide susceptibility: Grass selective herbicides can be applied. Subzero forage brassica is susceptible to many broadleaf herbicides. Consult your local agronomist for herbicide options. Always check label before herbicide use. Best sown into weed-free paddocks.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Feed value: Subzero forage brassica is a highly digestible feed. The leaves and stems of Subzero forage brassica can contain between 10–12MJ ME/kg DM and 16–30% CP.

Palatability: Highly palatable in its vegetative state.

Production potential: Total yields of up to 15t/ha DM production are possible.

Livestock disorders/toxicity: Incorrect management of Subzero can cause photosensitisation, nitrate poisoning, goitre (enlarged thyroid), kale anaemia (red water), pulpy kidney and bloat. Consultation with a local veterinarian or animal health professional is advised.