Green Manuring Crops

INCORPORATION OF GREEN MANURE

Incorporation is most effective when plants are young and succulent and the crop is cut and chopped to produce a mulch before turning it into the soil. This allows it to decompose quickly and release nutrients to be used by the following crop.

Some crops, however, require nitrogen to be available at a later stage, in which case they will benefit from the green manure crop being left to become more mature. Decomposition and the release of nutrients will take longer and will be more likely to be available at the right time in the crop's development.

It is very important not to sow too early because of the allelopathic effect of the decomposing plants on germinating seeds.

DAIKON RADISH

A rapid growing crop that produces a large amount of biomas. It has the ability to reduce nematodes and is also an excellent weed suppressor. It produces a long aggressive taproot that penetrates through many different soil types, improving drainage and air movement through the soil. A major benefit is that it captures and stores nutrients from deep in the soil over the winter period, which are released in the spring for the next crop. It can provide much needed cover throughout the winter months for game birds or can be used as an excellent fast growing, nutrient storing green manure crop.


Daikon Radish

Club Root Tolerant

Sowing Rate 8 - 10kg/ha
Pack Size 5kg & 25kg
Treatment Untreated

DISCLAIMER

The table on page 43 is given in good faith and intended for general guidance only. Weather, local conditions and crop rotations must always be taken into account.

WHITE MUSTARD

Popular as a green manure crop. A relatively inexpensive and highly versatile cover crop either sown alone or as a companion to other species. It is a fast growing and good weed suppressor. Has bio fumigation properties but not to the same extent as brown mustard. It is ideal for early cover and produces large quantities of biomass although killed off by frost later. It an excellent scavenger of nitrogen. Destroy before flowering to prevent self-seeding. Some varieties are nematode resistant.

Sowing rate 12.5 - 17kg/ha
Pack size 10kg & 25kg
Treatment Untreated
Organic seed available in 25kg packs

BROWN MUSTARD

A fast growing green manure crop with bio fumigation properties, i.e. it suppresses soil-borne pests and diseases. It is an easy to establish 50 - 70 day crop that can be sown between April and September. Unlike white mustard, it is winter hardy. It will improve the health of the soil by increasing organic matter and acts as an excellent weed suppressant. It is also especially useful as over-wintering green cover after maize, potatoes and sugar beet crops, reducing soil erosion, fertiliser leaching and water run-off.

Sowing rate 5 - 7.5kg/ha
Pack size 5kg
Treatment Untreated

FODDER RADISH (OIL RADISH)

A fast growing cover crop, its speed of establishment aids weed suppression. It has a long tap root which will improve the soil structure and also has plenty of leaf that produces a large quantity of organic matter. An excellent nitrogen scavenger. Some varieties are nematode resistant.

Sowing rate 10 - 20kg/ha
Pack size 10kg & 25kg
Treatment Untreated
Organic seed available in 25kg packs

BLACK OATS / JAPANESE OATS - AVENA STRIGOSA

A rapid growing leafy cereal crop which has early vigour with good weed suppression. It will produce large amounts of organic matter. Destroy before flowering to prevent self-seeding. Not winter hardy.

Sowing rate 50 - 75kg/ha
Pack size 25kg & 500kg
Treatment Untreated

FORAGE RYE

A cereal crop that produces large amounts of organic matter and suppresses weeds. An excellent nitrogen scavenger that helps the prevention of nitrate leaching during the winter months. Winter hardy. Do not allow it to run to seed as this will lock up available nitrogen.

Sowing rate 125 - 185kg/ha
Pack size 25kg & 500kg
Treatment Untreated

AVALON LEAFY TURNIP

Avalon is a very leafy turnip that is late flowering, covers the soil very fast and is winter hardy. This variety can be sown in spring or autumn and for forage production these leafy turnips can be grazed after just 6-8 weeks. Avalon also has a very high dry matter yield and excellent resistance to Alternaria.

NEW FOR 2017

Sowing rate 5 - 7.5kg/ha
Pack size 10kg & 25kg
Treatment Untreated

ROCKET LETTUCE

This crop flowers rather late with an average early vigour. Rocket lettuce is like oil radish; a dual purpose in regards to diseases and pest control. This crop is suitable as a biological controller of cyst nematodes H. schachtii and betae, and fights root knot nematodes M. chitwoodi and incognita. This, combined with high levels of glucosinolate, makes Rocket a good biofumigant.

NEW FOR 2017

Sowing rate 10kg/ha
Pack size 5kg
Treatment Untreated

FOR SPRING SOWING AND SUMMER INCORPORATION

Spring sown, summer crops are usually annual crops that as a rule do not tolerate frost. They are quick growing and will suppress weeds by light deprivation as well as providing organic material to improve soil structure and organic status. As they are usually fleshy crops and do not contain high proportions of carbon when incorporated into the soil, they do not substantially reduce stocks of soil nitrogen in the breaking down of the plant structure.

AUTUMN SOWING & SPRING INCORPORATION

Autumn sown crops which go through the winter will scavenge nitrogen from soils thus preventing leaching which is taken much more seriously these days. They can be incorporated in the following spring or can provide a source of forage, prior to incorporation and also help to control erosion especially on late harvested maize stubbles. Certain species can be utilised to provide a nitrogen fixer which is then readily available to a spring sown crop.

LONGER TERM CROPS

Grass and clover leys for long term fertility building must by their nature form part of the rotation. The increased duration of the sward ensures that the grass element provides a very strong root system valuable for soil aeration, whilst the legumes with their deeper root system will improve water filtration through the soil structure whilst also providing increased soil nitrogen.