Green Manuring Crops

**DAIKON RADISH**
A rapid growing crop that produces a large amount of biomass. 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.

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

**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 is 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

**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.

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.

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

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Pack size 25kg & 500kg
Treatment Untreated

**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.

**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.