



Swedes

Cultivars list

Products

Swedes (*Brassica napus* var. *napobrassica*) are a high yielding winter crop, used as a single graze option typically between June and August. They are normally sown in late spring or summer in cool, summer moist climates, mostly in southern and inland New Zealand.

Swedes typically yield 10-18 t DM/ha with higher feed quality than kales; typical ME values are 12 MJ ME/kgDM. Bulb quality keeps better than turnips, especially in frosty conditions. They also handle heavy snow better than kale, which can lodge and be stripped of its leaves. Swedes are most often strip-grazed and cultivars have several maturity dates. They can be grazed by a variety of animals in a range of farming systems.

Swedes are traditionally sown into a cultivated seedbed. But direct-drilling or precision planting pelleted seed is becoming more popular. Precision planting with pelleted seed, as used for fodder beet, can increase yield by 10-15%. Swedes are not recommended for double cropping because of the high risk of disease.

Barenbrug Swede cultivar

Invitation

A late maturing, high yielding, leafy, yellow-fleshed swede with excellent animal health. It has good dry rot tolerance, and club root and powdery mildew resistance. *Invitation* has high bulb keeping and leaf retention ability, and its late flowering makes it a good option when grazing into early spring.

Other Swede cultivars

Cleancrop Aspiring

Part of the Cleancrop™ brassica system, a soft, early maturing, yellow-fleshed swede with better dry-rot and *Alternaria* tolerance

Clutha Gold

Yellow-fleshed, high yielding swede with good clubroot and dry rot tolerance.

Earnslaw

Yellow-fleshed swede with early maturity and a soft bulb, but improved dry-rot and *Alternaria* tolerance.

Cleancrop Hawkestone

Part of the Cleancrop™ brassica system; yellow-fleshed swede with medium maturity. It has similar dry rot and clubroot tolerance to *Aparima Gold*.

Massie

A high yielding and disease tolerant early maturing swede with a distinctive purple colour and yellow flesh.

Triumph

High yielding, yellow-fleshed swede with high leaf retention. A palatable swede for all mature classes of stock.

Saddleback

Consistently high yielding swede with robust disease tolerance and good leaf retention.



Replicated trials, like this one at Te Anau, are critical for evaluating swedes.