RAPESEED

- Deep, fibrous root system, scavenging both nitrogen and soluble phosphorus
- Strong biomass production makes it great for fall and winter grazing
- Offers the most grazing cycles of brassica when planted in late summer/early fall
- Performs well in poor soil fertility conditions
- Likely to overwinter in Transition Zone and South

Description:
Rapeseed is an upright, cool season and/or winter annual broadleaf. Rapeseed is versatile enough to be planted in the spring for a summer cover, or may be utilized in the fall for a winter cover crop. Rapeseed works great as a dual-purpose crop, adapting to a wide range of soil types and conditions. Rapeseed tends to be extremely drought-tolerant and stands frost better than many brassicas. Because of its winter hardiness, it’s common for growers to get multiple grazing cycles when feeding rapeseed.

Non-Forage Benefits:
1 = Poor; 5 = Excellent

- Compaction Alleviation: 5
- Weed Suppression: 3
- Biomass Production: 4
- Erosion Control: 4
- Disease/Pest Control: 4
- Pollinator/Beneficials: 4
- P & K Cycling: 4
- Ease of Establishment: 5

Planting Time: Apr-May; Aug-Sept

Seeding Rate:
Mono (lbs/acre): 4-6
Mix (lbs/acre): 2-4
Forage (lbs/acre): 6-8

Seeding Info:
Seeding Depth (in./with drill): 1/4-1/2
Seeds/lb.: 145,000
Bulk Density (lbs./ft.³): 45
Aerial Application Rate: 5-8
Germination Soil Temp.: 41 F
USDA Hardiness Zone: 5
Days to Emergence: 4-10

Considerations:
- Rapeseed can be more difficult to control with glyphosate
- Prefers soils with a pH 5.8 – 8.0
- Rapeseed may attract some non-beneficial pests
- Brassica crops can cause animal health disorders if not grazed properly. Introduce grazing animals to brassica pastures slowly (usually over 3-5 days). With extremely high forage values, brassicas can cause problems if hungry animals are turned out into predominate brassica pastures. Even though traditional recommendations allow for 2/3, we actually recommend keeping brassicas to under 1/3 of the grazing animal’s diet- always supplement brassicas with dry hay or other grasses (higher in fiber).