



Oil Seed Radish

MICHIGAN - COVER CROP FACT SHEET

Oil Seed Radish (*Raphanus sativus*)



Identifying Features:

- Lobed, irregular leaves
- Rosette leaves all the way down stem
- Deep Taproot

Planting Tips

- **Seeding Dates:** mid-July – mid-September
- **Drilled Seeding Depth:** 0.25 inches – 0.5 inches
- **Drilled Seeding Rate:** 4lbs PLS/Ac (5–9 MCCC)
- **Broadcast Seeding Rate:** 5lbs PLS/Ac (6–10 MCCC)
- **Aerial Seeding Rate:** 6lbs PLS/Ac (6–11 MCCC)



* Drilling is more reliable than broadcast style applications

- **Seed Size:** 34,000 seeds/lb
- **Minimum Germination Temp.:** 45° F
- **Preferred pH:** 6–7.5

Termination Tips

- Winter kill termination, winterkills at 20°F
- Mild winter or a good snow cover before the radish dies can allow it to overwinter
- Chemical termination
- Mechanical Termination
 - Tillage, crimping, mow, graze

Performance

- Dry Matter:** 1,500–4,000 lbs/Ac
- Nitrogen Scavenger:** Very Good
- Soil Builder:** Very Good
- Erosion Fighter:** Good
- Weed Fighter:** Very Good
- Good Grazing:** Very Good
- Quick Growth:** Excellent
- Mechanical Forage Harvest:** Fair
- Cash Crop Interseed:** Very Good

Residue Decomposition Rate

(C:N Ratio)



Additional Considerations

- Excellent for compaction
- Weeds: Fast emergence helps choke out weeds and produces glucosinolate, which reduces weed germination
- Nematodes: select varieties of oilseed radish can be used to trap sugarbeet cyst nematodes
- Potential Issues: Can outcompete other crops in mixes, must terminate timely or can become a weed, odor when decomposing

This fact sheet is a collaborative effort of Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide information on cover crops. For more information consult <https://www.midwestcovercrops.org/michigan/>. USDA participants should follow the specifications in their conservation plan and the NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.