

Brassica crop rotations

Summary

- Brassica crops are best used in a system, where you can build in the benefit of successive crops, to give better year-round feed supply.
- This also benefits subsequent pasture renewal through better weed control and thus better pasture persistence.

Advantages prior crop

Often paddocks are chosen for a brassica crop because of their poor pasture growth. This may be caused by underlying problems such as poor soil fertility, drainage, weeds, pests or diseases. A prior crop (e.g. a winter ryegrass) allows any issues to be corrected before sowing the brassica, helping ensure high crop yields.

Double cropping has real advantages if the paddock has turf, fibrous grass weeds such as browntop, fescue or cocksfoot. Much better long-term control of these is achieved through multiple crops and herbicide applications. Using a prior crop (e.g. a winter ryegrass) also gives time for turf to break down, allowing a better seedbed for the brassica crop in spring.

Crop rotation examples

Kale or swedes

Prior to a winter kale or swede crop, a winter ryegrass crop can be sown, to produce extra winter and early spring feed.

D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
Poor pasture			Winter ryegrass crop (Archie)									Winter kale (Caledonian) or swedes (Invitation)						New perennial pasture					

Summer turnips

Prior to a summer turnip crop, a winter ryegrass crop can be sown, to produce extra winter and early spring feed.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Poor pasture		Winter ryegrass crop (Archie)							Summer turnip (Dynamo)			New perennial pasture					

Winter rape

A winter rape crop could be sown after a cereal crop.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Poor pasture			Cereal crop									Winter rape (Interval)						Perennial pasture, rape, leafy turnip, spring barley					