

Kale

Introduction

Kale is typically sown in spring as a high yielding, single graze winter crop, grazed between June and August. The best yields are achieved when it is sown in highly fertile soils with reasonable summer moisture levels. It is becoming increasingly popular as winter grazing for dairy cows because of its high yields (10-18 t DM/ha) and good ME value (11-12). Kale is deeper rooting and more tolerant of dry conditions than swedes.

Taller, higher yielding varieties of kale are more suited to cattle grazing, while the shorter, leafier varieties are more suited to sheep and deer. Kale is mostly tolerant of club root and dry rot, therefore it can be used as a second crop option.

Variety descriptions

Caledonian

Caledonian kale combines high yield with softer stems, for improved feed quality. It is a tall variety that has a moderate leaf to stem ratio with good winter hardiness. (Refer also to the *Caledonian* sheet on page 117).

Coleor

A short-medium height variety with a good leaf to stem ratio and winter hardiness. It has distinctive purple leaves and low SMCO levels.

SF Fuel

An intermediate height variety with good leaf:stem ratio and disease tolerance.

Gruner

Tall variety, with moderate leaf to stem ratio and high yield.

Kestrel

Kestrel is a medium height variety with digestible thick stems, high leaf to stem ratio and low SMCO levels.

Rawara

An old, tall variety, suited to cattle grazing. Stems can be thick and fibrous resulting in low utilisation.

Regal

An intermediate height variety bred for a high leaf percentage to increase utilisation. Has a high total yield and winter hardiness.

Sovereign

Sovereign is an intermediate height variety, with a high leaf to stem ratio and high yield potential.

SF Voltage

A marrow-stem, medium sized variety that is suitable for all stock classes.