

Swedes

Introduction

Swedes are a high yielding, slow maturing 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, and are widely used in southern and inland areas of New Zealand.

They typically yield 10-16 t DM/ha with higher feed quality than kales; typical ME values are 12+. Swedes maintain their bulb quality better than turnips, especially in frosty conditions. They are most often strip-grazed and varieties have a range of maturity dates. They can be grazed by a variety of stock types in a range of farming systems.

Swedes are generally not recommended for double cropping because of the risk of disease.

Variety descriptions

Invitation

Invitation is a late maturing, high yielding, yellow-fleshed swede with good dry rot tolerance and powdery mildew resistance. *Invitation* has shown high bulb keeping and leaf retention ability, helping maintain its feed quality through to the end of winter. (Refer also to the *Invitation* sheet on page 119).

Aparima Gold

Medium maturing yellow-fleshed variety with club root and dry rot tolerance. Offers a high proportion of top with high overall yield.

Dominion

Dominion is a early maturing high yielding yellow-fleshed main crop variety, with average leaf retention.

Highlander

Later maturing variety with white flesh and high proportion of leaf. Offers good overall yield.

Keystone

A medium maturing white-fleshed swede that offers high dry rot tolerance.

Major Plus

Major Plus is a yellow-fleshed variety with good overall yield. It is early maturing and produces an average proportion of top.

Winton

Medium maturity white-fleshed variety with good overall yield. Produces a high proportion of top with good disease resistance.