

# Kale

## Introduction

Kale is typically sown in spring for 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 cultivars of kale are more suited to cattle grazing, while the shorter, leafier cultivars 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.

## Cultivar descriptions

### *Caledonian*

*Caledonian* kale combines high yield with softer stems, for improved feed quality. It is a tall, marrow stem cultivar that provides excellent winter feed for cattle.

### *Coleor*

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

### *SF Inka*

High yielding giant type kale with moderate leaf to stem ratio. Stems can be thick and fibrous.

### *SF Fuel*

An intermediate height cultivar with good leaf to stem ratio and disease tolerance.

### *Gruner*

Tall cultivar, with moderate leaf to stem ratio and high yield. Stems can be thick and fibrous.

### *Kestrel*

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

### *Rawara*

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

### *Regal*

An intermediate height cultivar bred for a high leaf percentage. Has a high total yield and winter hardiness.

### *Ceres Sovereign*

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

### *SF Voltage*

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