

Swede

Brassica napus · *Brassica* family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual, direct sown
MATURITY 80–100 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
20cm × 35cm



DEPTH
1–2cm

01 Slower and larger than turnip

Swedes are a larger, sweeter, slower-growing cousin of the turnip — sweetness improves markedly after a light frost, like parsnip.



loose, deep soil — straight root



stony soil — forked root

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow, thin as seedlings develop.
SOIL	Deep, loose, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Sow in late spring to early summer for an autumn/winter harvest.

04 Problems

- **Flea beetle** — holes in leaves; net young plants.
- **Clubroot** — same risk as other brassicas; rotate beds.
- **Woody centre** — inconsistent watering or over-maturity.
- **Boron deficiency** — brown heart; feed with compost or seaweed tonic.

03 Growing care

- Thin to final spacing once seedlings are established.
- Water consistently — irregular watering causes woody centres.
- Mulch to retain even soil moisture.
- Leave in the ground after a light frost for extra sweetness.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Roots reach 10–15cm across, sweeter after frost.
METHOD	Loosen soil with a fork before pulling.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Cool, dark, humid spot. Keeps 2–3 months.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Peas Onion	Other brassicas nearby	Rotate brassicas on a 3–4 year cycle.