

Turnip

Brassica rapa · Brassica family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual, direct sown
MATURITY 40–60 days



SUN
Full-part sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
10–15cm × 30cm



DEPTH
1cm

01 Fast, cool-season root

Turnips bulb quickly in loose soil. Both the root and the young leafy tops are edible — pick a few leaves without robbing the root of energy.



loose, deep soil — straight root



stony soil — forked root

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow; thin early.
SOIL	Loose, well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Sow in cooler months — spring or autumn.

04 Problems

- **Flea beetle** — small holes in leaves; net young plants.
- **Root maggot** — tunnels in roots; rotate beds, avoid planting after other brassicas.
- **Woody texture** — left too long or dry conditions.
- **Bolting** — hot weather; sow in the cooler season.

06 Companions & rotation

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

03 Growing care

- Thin to final spacing early — crowding stunts roots.
- Keep watering even to avoid woody, hot-tasting roots.
- Harvest young for the mildest flavour.
- Pick a few outer leaves as a bonus green without harming the root.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Roots reach 5–8cm across, before they get woody.
METHOD	Pull by the leaves once soil is loosened.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge crisper, 2–3 weeks.