

## How to Grow Turnips

### General

Summer turnips are great for salads, pickles, and stir-fries. Any place that you would use spinach or Swiss chard, you can give turnip greens a try.

### Latin

*Brassica rapa var. rapa*

Family: Brassicaceae

### Difficulty

Easy

### Season & Zone

**Season:** Cool season

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Zone:** 2-10. Hardy for overwinter growing in Zone 7+

### Timing

Direct sow in March and April. Optimal soil temperature for germination: 18-21°C (66-70°F). Seeds should sprout in 7-14 days.

### Starting

Sow 5mm-1cm (¼-½") deep in rows spaced 45-60cm (18-24") apart, and thin to 10-15cm (4-6") apart in the row.

### Growing

Ideal pH: 6.0-6.8. Humus-rich, deeply cultivated soil is key. Add plenty of well rotted compost or manure to the beds and cultivate to a depth of 20cm (8"). Dig in 1 cup of complete organic fertilizer for every 3m (10') of row. The real secret to success with turnips is speed. Sow short rows every 2-3 weeks, thin them quickly, keep them watered, harvest, and then sow some more.

### Harvest

Gather greens and roots from June to October. Immature seed pods are also tasty.

### Diseases & Pests

Remember that turnips are members of the Brassica family, so they should not be planted where other Brassicas have been grown in the past 4 years. This simple crop rotation will prevent nearly all diseases from occurring in the first place. Floating row cover will protect plants from cabbage moth and flea beetles.

### Companion Planting

Turnips are easy going, but benefit from mint and pea companions.

