Radishes: Benefits from One Crop to the Next

Alleviation of Soil Compaction
Thin lower taproots can grow up to 6’ deep or more and thick fleshy upper parts can grow through plow pans 12-20” deep. This process, called biodrilling, improves root access to water.

Suppression of Weeds
A good stand of forage radish produces a dense canopy that all but eliminates weed emergence in the fall and winter.

Enhancement of Seedbed
Radishes winter kill leaving a bare aerated soil that dries out and warms up quickly in the spring.

Building of Soil Organic Matter
Typical production adds 5,000 lbs. of top growth and 2,000 lbs. of root dry matter per acre, a significant amount of easily decomposed organic matter.

Early Release of N
Large amounts of N taken up from the soil profile in the fall can reduce the need for N fertilizer in the spring.

Reduction of Nitrate Leaching
Their deep root systems, rapid growth and heavy N consumption prevents N from leaching in fallow fields.

Control of Soil Erosion and Runoff
Every stage of development prevents erosion, whether it’s the full canopy, decomposing residue or large holes left behind from the tap roots.

Fall Cover Crops

Ground Hog brand Radish

Daikon Radish

Winter Peas

Fall Rye Grain

Oats

PREFERRED SEED
Preferred Seed, Preferred Results

Forage Radish

New Multipurpose Cover Crop

Forage radish is a unique fall/winter cover crop that is relatively new to the Northeast region. Forage radish is also known as "Daikon" radish. When planted by early to mid August in the Northeast, forage radish exhibits a number of unique and desirable characteristics that distinguish it from other types of cover crops more commonly grown in the region.

PLANTING GUIDE	
Seeding Rate: (drill)	8 – 12 lbs./acre
Seeding Rate: (broadcast)	12 – 14 lbs./acre
- with 20 lbs. Peas	6 lbs. per acre
Seeding Date:	Early – Late August
Planting Depth	¼ - ½ inch

Forage Radish has been shown to:

√ Alleviate soil compaction – save on deep tillage

√ Increase water infiltration

√ Suppress weeds – save on herbicides and cultivation

√ Enhance seedbed – save time and plant earlier in spring

√ Build organic matter – improve soil quality

√ Release N early and increase topsoil fertility – save on N and other fertilizers

√ Reduce nitrate leaching

√ Control erosion – save your soil

√ Reduce runoff – conserve rainwater

√ Increase forage and grain yields of the following crop

√ Produce a mellow seed bed

Other Cover Crops Available

Austrian Winter Peas

- Nitrogen fixing legume
- Over winters with spring growth
- Seeding Rate – 50-60 lbs. per acre

Field Peas

- Nitrogen fixing legume
- Winter kills eliminating the need to spring kill
- Seeding Rate – 25 lbs. per acre with 6 lbs. radish or 50 lbs. alone

Fall Rye Grain

- Wide seeding window
- Can be harvested for spring forage
- Seeding Rate – 85-140 lbs. per acre (1.5 – 2.5 bushels)

Oats

- Plant early for fall forage
- Winter kills eliminating the need to spring kill
- Seeding Rate – 64-96 lbs. per acre

Hairy Vetch

- Seed by Mid-August to avoid winter kill
- Provides a lot of spring growth and nitrogen fixing
- Seeding Rate – 20-30 lbs. per acre