

Variety Description

Variety

MALWIRA

Species

Turnip rape (field mustard)

Botanical name

Brassica rapa L. silvestris

Seeding rate

15-20 kg/ha

Distance between rows

15-25 cm

Sowing period

July to mid-September

Sowing depth

2-3 cm

Agronomic figures*:

Summer catch crop cultivation

Development after sowing 6

Inclination to flower 1

DM yield 5

Winter catch crop cultivation

Tendency to winterkilling 5

Development after onset of vegetation 5

Beginning of flowering 5

DM yield 5

Clarification of figures*:

1: very early, very low / 5: medium / 9: very late, very high

* **Source:** Descriptive Varieties List of the Federal Plant Varieties Office 2019, Cultivator classification

Variety description

MALWIRA is a turnip rape variety that is ideally suited for cultivation as a winter or summer catch crop. It is highly effective at removing nitrogen from the upper layers of soil, protecting the soil from nutrient leaching. The variety provides good ground cover both before and after winter, resulting in high weed suppression. MALWIRA is very winter-hardy and tolerates late seeding. The growth can be used in feeding. After around 60 growing days on western European climate and site conditions, green matter yields are between 30,000 and 40,000 kg/ha. Given an average dry matter content of 10%, this means that growers can aim for dry matter yields of 3,000 to 4,000 kg/ha. MALWIRA is a healthy variety, with low susceptibility to mildew or alternaria.

Most important characteristics

Excellent performance as a winter catch crop
Very winter hardy
High weed suppression
High nitrogen uptake and storage for the subsequent crop
Tolerates late seeding

Usage

Turnip rape is a well-known and highly prized green fodder and green manure plant whose unique characteristics allow it to quickly establish ground cover, suppress weeds and absorb nutrients. As one of the most effective nitrogen absorbers among cruciferous plants, turnip rape's N uptake can reach 200-300 kg/ha in a growing period that lasts less than six months. Thanks to its extremely low tendency to form flowers, there is little risk of the plants shedding their seeds. Since turnip rape is the product of a cross between cabbage and turnip plants, it is very closely related to rapeseed, meaning that it should not be used as a catch crop in rotations involving rapeseed. Like all cruciferous plants, turnip rape contains glucosinolate. When broken down, this compound has a phytotoxic effect on a wide variety of weeds.

