STUBBLE TURNIPS

An excellent catch crop which can produce nutritious, highly palatable feed in just 12-14 weeks after sowing. The crop can be sown in spring for feeding in late summer or sown in July or August for feeding in October to February. They are not very winter hardy and losses will occur in frosty weather.

Sowing Period: April to Jun. for feeding in July to September  
July to August for feeding in October to February

Seeding Rates: Seeding rate depends on sowing conditions and method of sowing. Fine and firm seedbed required similar to grass reseeding. Broadcast at 8 kg/ha (3 kg/acre). Direct drill at 5kg/ha (2 kg/acre)

Varieties: TYFON - Ideally sown in the spring and utilized in the summer months. Very leafy growth habit with some re-growth potential. Leaf growth will be 70% of total dry matter.  
DELILAH - Very high yielding variety. Ideal for fattening lambs and will produce huge white tankard shaped bulbs. Leaf growth will be about 40% of total dry matter. Resistant to mildew.  
Barkant - High yielding variety. Leaf growth will be 60-70% of total yield.

Lime: Target pH of 6.2-7.0

Fertiliser: N 90 kg/ha (72 units/acre); P 30kg/ha (24 units/acre); K 60 kg/ha (48 units/acre); e.g. 4 x 50 kg/acre 18-6-12

Weed Control: Normally none could use Triplen pre-sowing and incorporate to 5 cm (Light soils 2 L/ha, Medium & Heavy soils 2.3L/ha)

Pest Problems: Flea beetles can attack at emergence, control by spraying Dursban 1.5 L/ha. Watch for slugs and leatherjackets
Disease: Club root - Very susceptible to attack, good crop rotation will avoid the problem.

Powdery Mildew - variety choice important. Control with Folicur at 1L/ha.

Dry Matter yield: 3 - 4 t/ha
Fresh yield: 35 - 40 t/ha
Dry Matter: 8 - 9%
Crude Protein: 17 - 18%

Feeding Information:

Stubble turnips are usually utilized by ewes and lambs or by fattening lambs. Utilization of bulbs by sheep and cattle can be poor especially if bulb size is small. Strip grazing works best and it is important to introduce stock gradually. Stock takes about three weeks to adjust to stubble turnips in the diet. Sheep or cattle will both need a source of roughage, i.e. grass, hay, straw or silage. Minerals also need to be supplemented.