

## **TURNIP**

Turnip is a cool-season vegetable that can be grown as a spring or fall crop in Kansas. Turnips are easy to grow and can be used for the root, top, or both. Rutabagas are a relative of turnips that require considerably more time to develop. Rutabagas are best grown as a fall crop in Kansas.

### **Varieties**

Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo, and Just Right (white) are common varieties grown for the root and top. Seven Top and Shogoin are varieties best grown for tops or greens. American Purple Top, Laurentian, and Red Chief are rutabaga varieties.

### **When to plant**

Plant spring turnips in mid- to late March to allow roots to develop before intense summer heat. Plant fall turnips in late July to early August. Rutabagas should be planted in mid-July.

### **Spacing**

Plant seed about ½ inch deep and about 2-4 inches apart in rows at least 15 inches apart. Use a slightly deeper planting for fall crops. You can also plant turnips in a bed or wide row planting by scattering seed to produce a plant every 2-4 inches in each direction. Rutabagas may need 5-6 inches between plants. It is common to scatter seed for fall turnips over a section of the garden.

### **Care**

Turnips need regular watering during their early development to ensure emergence and rapid growth. Weeds compete with small plants and must be removed early, using care to not damage young tender turnip plants.

## Harvesting

When roots are 2-4 inches in diameter, pull and trim the tops. Store turnip roots in plastic bags in a refrigerator for 2-3 weeks. Harvest the tops when they are young and tender. Overmature tops or roots will be strong flavored, and roots may be tough. Rutabagas will be slightly larger--about 3-5 inches in diameter at harvest because the plant is larger. The roots have a yellow interior.

## Common concerns

Flea beetles

Aphids

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