

SWEDE PREFERRED VARIETIES



GOWRIE

This is a new variety bred by the James Hutton Institute, Dundee (formerly the SCRI). Gowrie is a variety that can be utilised pre or post Christmas. It can produce **high dry matter yields** and exhibits good resistance to both club root and powdery mildew.



INVITATION

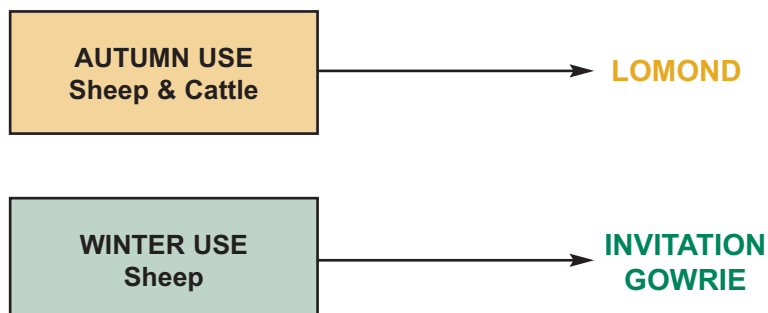
Invitation is a very uniform, **club root resistant variety**, ideal for utilisation after Christmas. Invitation also has excellent resistance to powdery mildew and will produce large leaves for extra grazing potential. Invitation is winter hardy and is suitable for sheep or cattle. Bred by the James Hutton Institute, Dundee (formerly the SCRI).

LOMOND

A high yielding variety with both powdery mildew and club root resistance. Bred by the James Hutton Institute, Dundee (formerly the SCRI).



Sowing Options



SWEDE HUSBANDRY INFORMATION

Soil Type/Site Selection

The crop can be grown on a wide range of soils including sandy loams, silts, peat or clay loams. The desirable soil properties needed are - ease of working, good aeration, good structure and sound drainage. Avoid soils with pans and ensure a pH of around 6.5.

Seedbed & Sowing Methods

The majority of swede crops are now sown with precision drills which require a level seedbed. Early drilling in April should be made with minimal cultivation passes to reduce compaction. Later drilling in May/ June are often made in hot, dry conditions so try and undertake the seedbed cultivations in early spring to reduce soil moisture loss. Weeds should be eliminated between seedbed preparation and sowing.

Seed should be sown at 1-2cm depth and left well firmed on the top.

Precision or space drills are capable of accurate placement of individual seeds (e.g. Stanhay or Webb). Swede seeds are naturally spherical; however, they are graded in size using a nationally agreed code letter system of H (1.75mm-2.00mm).

Rows should be 38-42cm apart. The ideal spacing within the row is generally assumed to be 15cm.

Fertiliser

For average soil types we suggest 250 kg/ha of 15.15.20 which should be applied into the seedbed. Swedes are responsive to Boron which should be applied to soils with a deficiency.

Varieties

Early varieties (low DM) can be sown from early April to late May. The late varieties for utilisation in late winter, like Invitation, should be sown mid-April to mid-June.

Weeds, Diseases & Pest Control

There are a number of pests which attack the swede crop from sowing through to maturity. In order to maximise crop establishment and minimise crop damage it is advisable to sow treated seed. If swedes are sown for culinary use it is essential that superficial mining or tunnelling from cabbage root fly be controlled, as is the internal damage from turnip root fly.

The major disease to watch for is clubroot which affects the root system.

Attacks of mildew on the leaves will reduce yield and may affect the crops palatability during in-situ grazing.

Feeding

Most fodder swede crops are grazed in situ. However it is important to remember to select a variety (or varieties) to cover the period you wish to graze. It is advisable to use an electric fence to reduce wastage. Forage swedes can be lifted and the roots stored in a clamp. The roots need to be clean and free of soil and try not to store any damaged roots as this will encourage fungal diseases.

