

Swede

Brassica napus · *Brassica* family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Biennial, grown as annual, direct sown

MATURITY 80–100 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
20cm × 35cm



DEPTH
1–2cm

01 Slower and larger than turnip

Swedes are a larger, sweeter, slower-growing cousin of the turnip — sweetness improves markedly after a light frost, like parsnip.



loose, deep soil – straight root



stony soil – forked root

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow, thin as seedlings develop.
SOIL	Deep, loose, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Sow in late spring to early summer for an autumn/winter harvest.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Thin to final spacing once seedlings are established.
- Water consistently — irregular watering causes woody centres.
- Mulch to retain even soil moisture.
- Leave in the ground after a light frost for extra sweetness.

04 Problems

- **Flea beetle** — holes in leaves; net young plants.
- **Clubroot** — same risk as other brassicas; rotate beds.
- **Woody centre** — inconsistent watering or over-maturity.
- **Boron deficiency** — brown heart; feed with compost or seaweed tonic.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Roots reach 10–15cm across, sweeter after frost.
METHOD	Loosen soil with a fork before pulling.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Cool, dark, humid spot. Keeps 2–3 months.
PRESERVING	See Root Cellaring (cool, dark storage without processing) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Peas Onion	Other brassicas nearby	Rotate brassicas on a 3–4 year cycle.