

Turnip

Brassica rapa · Brassica family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual, direct sown
MATURITY 40–60 days



SUN
Full–part sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



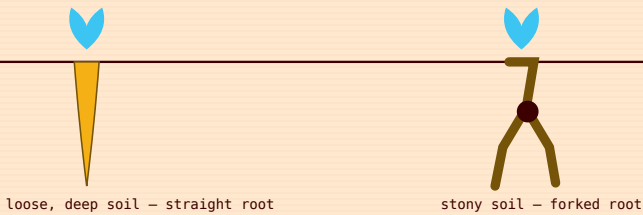
SPACING
10–15cm × 30cm



DEPTH
1cm

01 Fast, cool-season root

Turnips bulb quickly in loose soil. Both the root and the young leafy tops are edible — pick a few leaves without robbing the root of energy.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow; thin early.
SOIL	Loose, well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Sow in cooler months — spring or autumn.

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 early — crowding stunts roots.
- Keep watering even to avoid woody, hot-tasting roots.
- Harvest young for the mildest flavour.
- Pick a few outer leaves as a bonus green without harming the root.

04 Problems

- **Flea beetle** — small holes in leaves; net young plants.
- **Root maggot** — tunnels in roots; rotate beds, avoid planting after other brassicas.
- **Woody texture** — left too long or dry conditions.
- **Bolting** — hot weather; sow in the cooler season.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Roots reach 5–8cm across, before they get woody.
METHOD	Pull by the leaves once soil is loosened.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge crisper, 2–3 weeks.
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 (shared pests)	Rotate brassicas on a 3–4 year cycle.