

# Planting Tips

You will have success with Tillage Radish® wherever agricultural crops are grown. pH range 5.5-7.5



## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL TILLAGE RADISH® PLANTING

- For best results, plant in late summer to early fall, at least 4 weeks before the average first killing frost date.
- Tillage Radish will germinate rapidly and typically start appearing within days. If using a burndown herbicide to clean up existing weeds, wait no longer than 2 days after planting Tillage Radish.
- Tillage Radish begins to winterkill when temperatures fall to the mid-teens for 2 or 3 nights, similar to fall-planted spring oats.
- In most areas, Tillage Radish will decompose in time for spring planting, preparing the field for planting conditions and enhancing the availability of nutrients already in your soil.
- If Tillage Radish does not winterkill, apply a combination of 1 pint 2,4-D type herbicide along with 1 quart glyphosate when first flowers appear.
- Fertilizer input needs are significantly reduced; available leftover (N) has been held and herbicide is reduced due to Tillage Radish suppression of winter annuals.

### **IMPORTANT**

If Tillage Radish is planted very early as a cover crop, flowering can develop before they are winter killed. This can be controlled with mowing or burndown with the active ingredient Glyphosate or 2,4-D equivalent at flowering.

### **PLANTING DEPTH**

1/4 to 1/2 inch deep but can plant 1" to moisture if necessary

### **NITROGEN**

In order to grow to their fullest potential they will need 40-60 lbs of (N) – accumulated or residual. Most fields have enough (N) left over from the previous crop. Upon decomposition in the spring, Tillage Radish will give (N) back in time to utilize in the spring crop.

Applying manure or chicken litter is preferred *before* planting but can be done just prior to emergence. Liquid manure can only be spread after plant leaves are 4" in size. The practice may cause some burning of the leaves and will have plant damage along tire tracks.

The Tillage Radish tuber will take up to 150 lbs/acre of (N) from the manure, so it is a great benefit to store nutrients when there is a need to spread manure after planting.

## Seeding Rates for Tillage Radish Planted Alone

### **Precision Planter - 4 lbs/acre**

- 15" rows using 60-cell small milo or small sugar bee plates with 4" in-row spacing
- Seed is selected for Precision Planting performance

### **Drill Seeder - 8 lbs/acre**

- 7.5" rows, using small grass box, use alfalfa setting as a guide to set seeding rate. A large seed box can be used but the setting is very low and somewhat difficult to establish. Plant a few rounds with a known amount of seed to determine correct seeding rate

### **Broadcasting/Aerial Seeding - 8-10 lbs/acre**

- Strive for good soil and moisture contact
- Corn seeding indicator is when 1" patches of sunlight on soil surface are seen or approximately 4 weeks prior to anticipated harvest time
- Soybean seeding indicator is at leaf yellowing
- Cotton seeding indicator is right before defoliation
- Improve success rate by using drop tubes when seeding with a high clearance cover crop seeder

# Precision Planting

## GET THE BEST PRECISION PLANTING PERFORMANCE

### Save in seed cost... Precision Planting can reduce seeding rates of Tillage Radish® by half!

For precision planting, use a small sugar beet seed disk to plant Tillage Radish and set to plant 4" in-row spacing. Utilizing a precision planter set up for 15" rows is ideal and many farmers plant Tillage Radish in alternating rows with Austrian Winter Peas.

A standard soybean disk can be used at the same 4" in-row spacing. Also, some farmers who have 30" planters will equip one side of the planter to plant Tillage Radish and the other side to plant Austrian Winter Peas. They then double back and split the rows creating an alternating row effect.

With a precision planter set to plant at a 4" in-row spacing approximately 4 lbs/acre of Tillage Radish is the resulting seeding rate in 15" rows. If alternating every other row with peas, the approximate seeding rate is 2 lbs/acre of Tillage Radish and 20 lbs/acre of peas.

### RECOMMENDED SEED DISCS

**John Deere Pro or MaxEmerge Vacuum** – A51712

**Kinze Edge Vac** – D17050

**Kinze Brush Meter** – GA5795

**White** – 854047

**Case/IH 1200 series** – 236027A2

**Precision Planting (eSet disc)** – 720220  
(Run vacuum at 15")

**Monosem** – 6020

## PRECISION PLANTING EXAMPLES



*Precision Planted with wheat using a Kinze 60-cell Small Milo plate, 3" spacing in-row*



*Tillage Radish 2 lbs/acre Precision Planted with Austrian Winter Peas (20 lbs/acre; 60-cell soybean plates) using 15" White Planter using 60-cell sugar beet plates at 4" in-row spacing*



# Tillage Radish<sup>®</sup> Mixes

## TILLAGE RADISH<sup>®</sup> + OATS



## TILLAGE RADISH<sup>®</sup> + CRIMSON CLOVER



## TILLAGE RADISH<sup>®</sup> + HAIRY VETCH + RYE



## TILLAGE RADISH<sup>®</sup> + BARLEY



The photo at left shows bio-strip till with Tillage Radish near Gettysburg, PA. Thirty inch rows of Tillage Radish with Barley in between were planted with a grain drill.

Tillage Radish was planted in a small seed box with 3 middle holes taped over. Every 4th hole in the grain box was blocked off.... Corn will be planted into Tillage Radish rows the following year!

## Tillage Radish® Mixes



### TILLAGE RADISH® BLENDING OPTIONS

#### Tillage Radish Mixed With One or More Cover Crop Species

- Using Precision Planter with other cover crop species in alternating 15" rows: 2-3 lbs/A Tillage Radish
- With a drill - with one other cover crop species: 4 lbs/A, with two other cover crop species: 2 lbs/A Tillage Radish



#### Take Advantage of EQIP Money

Many NRCS offices offer EQIP money or CSP programs that help pay for cover crops. Contact your local NRCS to see if Tillage Radish and mixes qualify for funding in your area. Visit our website for direct links.

#### Cover Crop Blending Options – Best Suited For These Applications

##### **RULE OF THUMB**

When blending Tillage Radish with grains cut Tillage Radish rate to 4 lbs/A and cut the grains rate by 25% of your normal seed rate, eg. If your normal grain seed rate is 1 bu/A, cut it to  $\frac{3}{4}$  bu/A, etc. Same rule applies with planting Tillage Radish with Sorgam-Sudan grass.

##### **Erosion control areas and/or Fall/Spring grazing:**

- Tillage Radish 4 lbs/A with Small Grains -  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 bu/A
- Tillage Radish 4 lbs/A with Annual Ryegrass - 12 lbs/A

##### **Breakup compaction, Fall Grazing, add & store (N):**

- Tillage Radish 3 lbs/A with Hairy Vetch - 20 lbs/A
- Tillage Radish 4 lbs/A with Crimson Clover - 10 lbs/A
- Tillage Radish 4 lbs/A with Austrian Winter Peas - 30 lbs/A
- Tillage Radish 4 lbs/A with Sunn Hemp - 10 lbs/A  
(For Sunn Hemp, at least 8 weeks before first killing frost)

