



BONAR FORAGE RAPE

- **High forage yield and quality**
- **Preferred by animals**
- **Excellent autumn/early winter feed option**
- **Later maturing, good regrowth potential**

Description

Bonar is a late maturing forage rape, characterized by relatively short stems and large paddle-like leaves. A higher leaf to stem ratio gives increased utilization compared to Giant type rapes. Bonar can be spring sown where soil fertility and moisture is good, ideal for finishing stock over the summer/autumn period. Bonar is a high yielding rape variety that can provide quality winter feed after crops, or can be used as part of a pasture renewal program.

Performance

Bonar has been used extensively throughout New Zealand and has consistently out-performed other commercially available brassica lines, particularly in autumn when soil moisture is not limiting. Bonar has demonstrated superior utilization compared to other high yielding rape lines such as the Giant types. Bonar is resistant to powdery mildew. The improved animal preference and quality exhibited by Bonar results in superior animal performance due to the increased voluntary feed intake. Bonar has the ability to significantly increase animal production

Applications

Bonar can be used in summer/fall and for winter-feed. You can expect at least 2 grazings. It is a way to 'store' very high quality forage to be fed when needed, i.e. during summer and winter-feed shortages.

Sowing and Establishment

Sow Bonar at 2-5 lbs. per acre. Plant ¼" deep. Seed can be no-tilled into suppressed sod or seeded into a conventionally prepared seedbed. If tillage is conducted let the first flush of weeds germinate, then till the field one more time to control weeds. After final tillage pass, firm soil with a culti-packer then either drill or broadcast seed. After seeding, culti-pack field once more to improve seed to soil contact.

Grazing Management

Bonar is a late maturing rape with the crop ripening about 13 - 15 weeks after spring sowing. Sowing date can be determined by when the feed is likely to be required. If summer feed is required, sowing should not be before the last week of April. If Bonar is to be sown for winter feed then autumn sowing during August/September is suitable. Animals should never graze an immature rape crop. Mature Bonar is characterized by a purpling of the leaf margins and tips. Avoid the use of sulfate fertilizer particularly where soil sulfate levels are high. A nitrate sap test is recommended prior to grazing to ensure safety of animals grazing. Break feeding or strip grazing will ensure good utilization of the crop and reduce plant damage. Back fencing will help to maximize regrowth potential. Suitable for all stock types; finishing lambs, deer & beef cattle; flushing ewes; wintering sheep, deer, beef cattle & dairy. Animals that have not previously had experience with brassica crops may take time to accept them.

*Bonar is a product of Wrightson Seeds of New Zealand (rev 4/03)

