Forage radish (FR) and oats can be planted from mid-August through the first week of September. At 60 days after planting, plants have captured nutrients from the soil and are ready for grazing or feeding as green chop. Plants tolerate a few mild frosts before winterkilling. Graze at 60 days or before the first frost. Plants can continue to be grazed after a mild frost until they die.

For use as a cover crop and forage, seed 100 lbs. oat/A and 1-1.5 lbs. FR/A. This results in a final crop that is 35% FR and 65% oat by dry weight, contains 17% crude protein (CP), and is mild in palatability. Animals may have an adjustment period as they acclimate to the FR “flavor”.

Unlike dual-purpose crops that overwinter – such as rye, wheat and triticale – FR and oats leave minimal spring residue and require no spring cleanup. Because regrowth is not a goal, animals can graze crops all the way down.

A FR and oat mix captures more nutrients and provides greater yields than a monocrop of either. Cows, goats, and sheep can all graze this mixture.

On average, seeds cost $85/A and produce 1.4 tons (dry weight); in other words, it costs $30 per 1000 lbs. of forage.
**FORAGE RADISH**

**FOR THE RECORD:**

- Be conservative with FR if you adjust the seeding rates. FR was planted at 10, 20, 30, and 40% of a recommended 8 lb. seeding rate with oats at 90, 80, 70, and 60% of a recommended 110 lb. seeding rate. These mixtures resulted in the following crop compositions (dry weight):

![Crop Composition Diagrams]

- Brassicas, including FR, naturally make compounds called glucosinolates, which are responsible for the spicy taste of mustards. If consumed in excess, they can cause illness in animals.

- The 20% planting ratio can be fed safely (90 lbs. oats and 2.5-3 lbs. FR), providing 2 tons dry matter/A at 20% CP and catching 120 lbs. N and 28 lbs. P/A. Start with a low rate blend and monitor animal preferences & crop composition on your land.

**CONTACT US**

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Research supported by Northeast SARE. For the full report, visit https://projects.sare.org/search-projects/ and search project number GNE15-102.

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**AND OATS**

**CONSIDERATIONS**