

Variety Description

Variety

MAXIMUS

Species	Fodder radish
Botanical name	Raphanus sativus
Ploidy	tetraploid
Seeding rate	25–30 kg/ha as catch crop
Distance between rows	similar to cereals
Sowing period	from July to late August
Sowing depth	2-3 cm

Agronomic figures*:

Susceptibility to beet cyst nematodes	2
Development after sowing	7
Inclination to flower	4
Tendency to lodging	2
Resistance to Meloidogyne chitwoodi	No

Clarification of figures*:

1: very early, very low / 5: medium / 9: very late, very high

* Source: Federal Plant Variety Office 2020



Variety description

MAXIMUS is a late-blooming fodder radish with purple-white flowers. Its inclination to flower is low and it is highly effective at reducing the load of beet cyst nematodes (*Heterodera schachtii*). In sugar beet fields, this nematode can cause yield losses of up to 30%. Varieties in resistance class 2 can bring about nematode reductions of 70 to 90%. The variety MAXIMUS also exhibits good root penetration ability and rapidly covers the ground with its leaf rosettes. High early mass development ensures effective weed suppression and a rapid uptake of post-harvest nitrogen; at the same time, its tendency to lodging is ranked as low.

Most important characteristics

Resistant against beet cyst nematodes (grade 2)
Low tendency to flower despite strong early mass formation
Excellent weed suppression
Low tendency to lodging

Usage

Alongside white mustard, fodder radish is the most important catch crop in Germany by a significant margin. It is used in pure sowing and as a component in catch crop mixtures. The species is also suitable for more extensive broadcast seeding applications, especially when used in Coated Seed formulations, with improved scattering, storage and establishment benefits. Fodder radish is ideally suited to absorbing the post-harvest nutrients left by the main crop. Resistant varieties are good candidates in crop rotations with root crops or vegetables. Almost all varieties also exhibit a natural resistance to free-living nematodes, though this has not been examined in much detail by the German Federal Plant Varieties Office. The term "multiresistant", which is becoming increasingly common, is not used in scientific assessments and is poorly defined.

