

Should I use an inoculant on my wholecrop cereal?

If the crop is only cereal, the crop should ferment well without an inoculant additive. However where there is a legume like clover, peas or vetches included in the mix, use of an inoculant will improve fermentation and the feed value to the rumen. Rapid fermentation reduces losses from the crop and drops the pH more quickly to preserve the crop; the legume has a higher buffering capacity which is why use of an inoculant is recommended.

Will my stubble turnip bulb grow bigger if I leave it to grow for three months?

Stubble turnips are rapid growing brassicas and after around 8-12 weeks the bulb will not increase in size, but the plant may 'bolt' if not grazed. To increase the size of the bulb ( the main energy source) decrease the seed rate slightly so the plants are less dense. The leaf however is high in protein and together with the bulb gives a good energy and protein crop. Swedes will give a higher energy crop than stubble turnips but are a main crop and would need to be in the ground for most of the season.

Do red and white clover suffer from the same diseases?

Although they do both suffer from some of the same diseases, there is greater resistance in white clover than in red clover due to many years of plant breeding and selection. White clover is also able to "grow away" from disease as it's stoloniferous and creeps along the ground. Red Clover is an upright plant that depends on keeping the integrity of the crown to stay healthy and strong under disease pressure and is therefore more susceptible. However the good news is that the pests and diseases are generally specific to red clover and to white clover which means that white clover can be a break from red clover in a rotation. It is important to leave at least 5 years between subsequent red clover crops.