PLANT FACT SHEET

Brassica rapa subsp. rapa L.

GENUS *Brassica* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

COMMON NAMES Turnip, Rapini, Seven-top turnip

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Leaves, Seeds

The swollen root is cooked and eaten.
The leaves can be eaten. The leaves are used for sarma in Turkey. They are rolled around a filling of rice or minced meat.
The seeds can be ground to a powder and used as a seasoning.

DESCRIPTION

A cabbage family herb. It is an erect annual plant. It has a round white fleshed taproot. It is often tinged purple. The leaves are divided and have hairs. Where the leaves join the root it is not raised into a "neck". There are Asian or more tropical varieties. These will produce seed in warmer places.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It will grow in both the lowlands above 700 m and highlands in the tropics but does best in the highlands between 1700 and 2600 m altitude. In Java it can be grown above 1,000 m above sea level. It is frost resistant. A temperature of 9-16°C is best. Also short daylength and cool weather are important. It grows in Nepal to 2500 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from imported seed. In the lowlands they are best grown in the shade. Plants are spaced 10-15 cm apart. This can be achieved by thinning out plants.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The roots are ready after 8-10 weeks. They need to be harvested when young to avoid becoming hard and fibrous.

NOTES

There are about 30 Brassica species and many cultivated varieties.
The naming of Brassicas is still unclear.

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