



## HIGHLY DIGESTIBLE FORAGE

**Kestrel** is a full maturity leafy kale variety with short stems (150-220 days to grazing). Kestrel was bred to have a low-fiber stem and high digestibility.

### Notable Characteristics:

- Bred under Grazing Selection
- Readily Digestible Short-Thick Stems
- High Utilization Variety
- Very High Proportion of Leaves
- Superior Animal Production

### Applications:

- Extended Grazing Season: Kestrel can be used to extend the grazing season as the cool season pasture season ends. The leaves and stems are highly digestible. Suitable for dairy, beef, and sheep.
- Break Crop: Kestrel can also be used as a break crop in order to convert older pastures to different species and newer varieties. An annual crop gives a bigger window to eliminate the old undesirable forage through the use of herbicides, tillage, and the competition of the brassica crop itself.

### Seeding & Establishment:

- Plant in the spring after soil warms to 50F.

Sow Kestrel at 3-4 lbs. per acre. Plant at 1/4" to 1/2" deep. Seed can be no-tilled into suppressed sod or seeded into a conventionally prepared seed bed. 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 cultipacker, then drill or broadcast seed. After seeding, cultipack field once more to improve seed-to-soil contact.

### Fertility:

Follow soil test recommendations. Avoid fields high in sulfur.

Nitrogen: If not using manure, apply 75 lb/A nitrogen at seeding followed by an additional 70 lbs/A after 60 to 80 days.

### Grazing Tips:

- Leaves have very high energy and low fiber. Nitrate testing is advised for high fertility scenarios.
- Start by grazing for no more than 1-2 hours per day. Slowly increase to a maximum intake over at least 7-10 days to allow rumen to adjust.
- Feed extra fiber while grazing or allow access to stockpiled grass pasture.
- Consult with your nutritionist to ensure ration is balanced.