

Radish names defined

What's in a name?

Radishes have become quite popular the past few years primarily because of consistent yield increases on crops that are planted the following year.

However there is confusion in the some farming circles- particularly in the Midwest about what kind of radish we are talking about. Tillage Radish, oilseed radish, and daikon radish are the most frequent names associated with *Raphanus sativus*, the scientific name for this species.

All these listed below are *Raphanus sativus* radishes with many different names associated with different uses. They are different when compared one with another. It'd be like using the generic term, "corn" to describe the many varieties of corn -sweet corn included.

Names for *Raphanus sativus*:

Forage radish- the name Dr. Ray Weil, University of Maryland, assigned to the *Raphanus sativus* selection he used in his research relating to cover crops. Forage Radish is also used by those who use it for grazing. Dr, Weil will continue to use this term in order to be consistent with his research the past 8 years. But he is indeed using "tillage radish" seeds in current studies. Tillage radishes are mentioned on an upcoming fact sheet from the University of Maryland.

Oilseed radish –As the name indicates these are *Raphanus sativus* selected for oilseed production, not root production. Seeding rate is sometimes double because of increased seed size. Roots are less aggressive and the plants are generally harder to winterkill. There are named varieties of oilseed radish.

Daikon radish- a selection of *Raphanus sativus* used for human consumption.

Oilseed/daikon radish- confusing if this is really for oil seed or human consumption or something else.

Dichon/dicon radish- another name for daikon radish

Fodder radish-unspecified selection used as a cover crop

Field radish- unspecified selection used as a cover crop

Sprouting radish-Japanese use as sprouts in salads

Japanese radish-used for human consumption

Asian radish- used for human consumption

Chinese radish- used for human consumption

Tillage Radish- A trademarked name that describes the **best selection** of *Raphanus sativus* currently available for use as a soil conditioner and cover crop. Tillage Radishes are backed with 8 years of research at Cedar Meadow Farm in conjunction with the University of Maryland.