

Illinois Grazing Manual Fact Sheet

SPECIES

Annual Forages Seeding Rates



General Information

The use of annual plants for alternative forages has dramatically increased in the past several years in Illinois. The types of plants used as alternative forage crops can be lengthy. This document is focused on the primary annual forage plants used for both summer and winter forage purposes for haying or grazing.

Seeding Rates

The following seeding rates are suggested regardless of the tillage system you are using; reduced tillage, no-till or conventional tillage:

Spring drilled summer annual species:	Pounds PLS/acre:
Hybrid Pearl Millet	35#
Sudangrass	25#
Sudangrass & hybrids	20-25#
Sorghum	7-15#
Sorghum-sudangrass hybrids	25-30#
Foxtail/German Millet	25#
Forage Turnips (Brassics) & Swedes	1.5-2#
Forage Rape & Oats	4# & 1.5 bu.
Corn-Maize	25,000 seeds per acre
Spring oats	64-96#
Cowpeas	30-60#
Turnips/Rape Hybrid	4#
Annual or Italian Ryegrass	25#
Fall drilled winter annual species:	Pounds PLS/acre:
Cereal rye (winter rye)	120#
Oat	64#
Forage Turnips& Swedes	2#
Triticale	80-100#
Barley	96#
Wheat	120#
Forage Turnips (Brassics) & oats	2# & 64#
Cereal rye & Oats	90# & 32#
Cereal rye & Oats & Turnips	90# & 32# & 2#
Annual or Italian Ryegrass	25#
Fall Arial broadcast seeded species:	Pounds PLS/acre
Cereal rye	120#
Oats	80#
Forage Turnips/Swedes & Kale/Rape	2# & 4#
Triticale	100#
Wheat	120#
Forage Turnips & Oats	2# & 64#
Cereal rye & Oats	90# & 32#
Cereal rye & Oats & Turnips	90# & 32# & 2#
Annual or Italian Ryegrass	30#

References

Purdue University: Forage Selection and seeding guide for Indiana, (Bulletin AY-253), K.D. Johnson, C.L. Rhykerd, and J.O. Trott: Agronomy Dept.

Ohio State University: (bulletin 872-98) – Maximizing Fall and Winter Grazing of Beef Cattle and Stocker Cattle

Ohio State University: (AGF – 020-92) – Brassicas for Forage

Pennsylvania State University: (Agronomy Facts - 33) Use of Brassica Crops to Extend the Grazing Season

University of Illinois: (Agronomy Facts F-51) – Winter Forage from Turnips, Swede, Rape, Chinese Cabbage Hybrids, and Kale

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Field Office Technical Guide, eFOTG: Pasture and Hayland Planting Standard 512

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