

### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

## **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

Excellent summer grass choice. Plant in early summer; does not tolerate cool soils. Fast-grower, big biomass potential in the presence of lots of soil N. Regrows well after mowing/grazing. Excellent subsoiler with thicker roots than most grasses. Excellent weed suppressor due to competition and allelopathy (caution if next crop is small-seeded). Good forage, but prussic acid and nitrate content can be a problem. Slow drydown will limit dry hay production; chop or wrap for forage. Improved forage types available, cultivars may vary widely. Can produce large amount of biomass; mow or kill in a timely fashion. Can substitute forage sorghum or sudangrass. Can substitute sorghum or sorghum-sudangrass. Mix with cowpea, sunn hemp and sunflower for a diverse summer mix.





Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

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## **GOALS**

**Growing Window** Short Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value

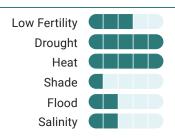
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food



### **WEEDS**

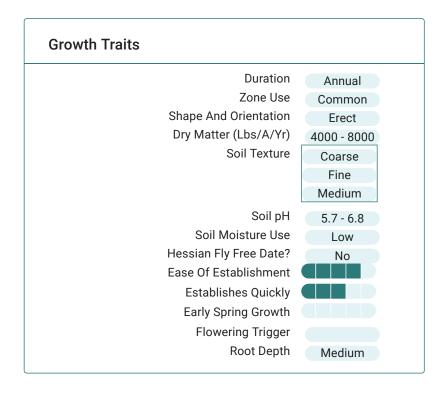
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

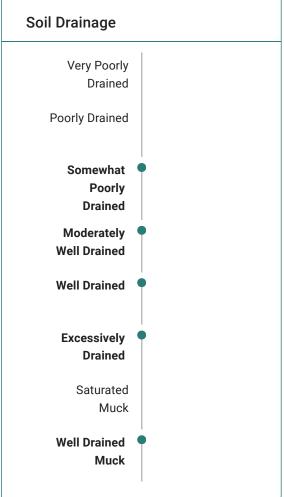
### **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES**

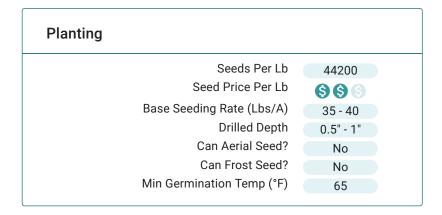


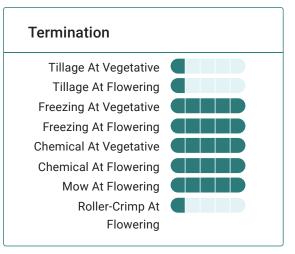


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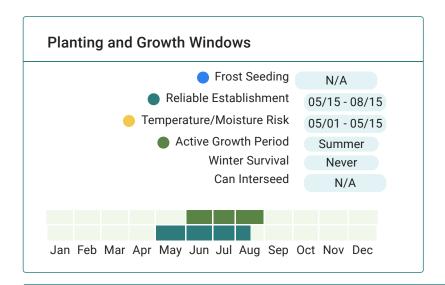








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## **Extended Comments**

Nematodes: Host for lesion nematode.

# **References & Resources**

Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops - Benefits, Selection, and Use, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension

**Choosing Cover Crops**, University of Massachusetts Extension

Summer Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

<u>Cover Crops for Home Gardens</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

<u>Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Early Summer Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Mid and Late Summer Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Summer Cover Crops, Penn State Extension