

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Upright small grain. Widely used in the Northeast. Best small grain for drought, heat, saline or alkaline soils. Not suitable for wet or acid soils. Spring barley does not need vernalization (overwintering) to produce stalk/head/seed. Quick growth and high biomass if fertility is good. Good weed suppressor, N scavenger, forage producer. Retains feed quality after heading. Good nurse crop for legumes. Use care when including as a cover crop in a small grain rotation (host for same diseases and pests). Spring barley planted in fall may fail to overwinter due to less winter hardiness than winter barley.





Barley, Spring - Brouillette [2020]

Barley, Spring - Raubenstein [2020]

GOALS

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

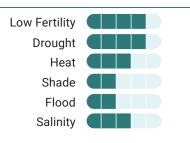
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food



WEEDS

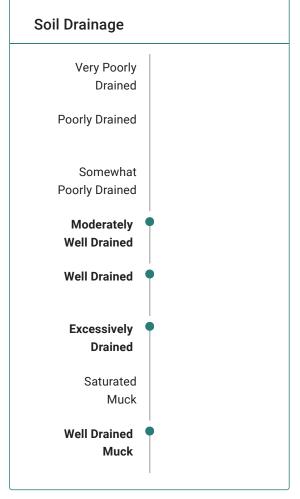
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

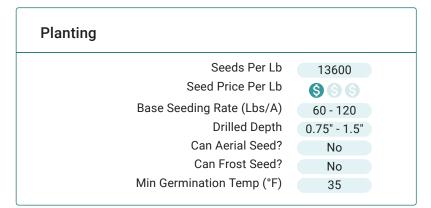
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

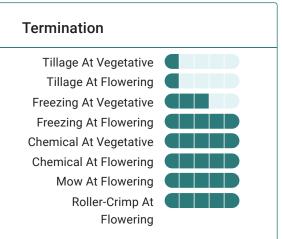


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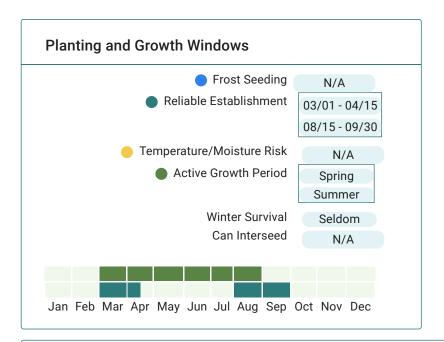
Growth Traits	
Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1000 - 3000
Soil Texture	Medium
Soil pH	6 - 8.5
Soil Moisture Use	Low
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Long Day
Root Depth	Medium







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Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Tolerates moderately alkaline conditions but does poorly in acid soil < pH 6.0. Bloat potential that is easily managed. Consult herbicide label for herbicides used prior to/during cover crop for grazing restrictions.

Forage and Grazing: Bears traffic very well when drilled; more susceptible to heavy traffic when aerially seeded.

Weeds: If other small grains are to be planted within a year there can be disease problems (especially with tan spot). If alfalfa is to be planted after the small grain, kill small grain volunteer plants with an herbicide.

References & Resources

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension