

Grass
Millet, Pearl
Pennisetum glaucum



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Tall summer annual grass. Does best under hot conditions. Fast growing. Has regrowth potential, particularly when mowed/grazed high. Improved forage types available, cultivars may vary widely. Mix with cowpea, sunflower, and sunn hemp for a diverse summer mix. Tall varieties are very similar to sorghum-sudangrass except slightly lower biomass potential but still a good smother crop; better on acid and droughty soils; less allelopathy potential; less reputation for subsoiling; no prussic acid forage toxicity (but nitrates still a concern).

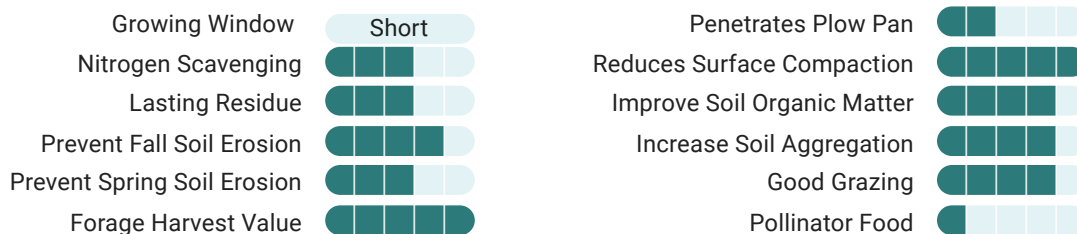


Millet, Pearl - Larson [2020]

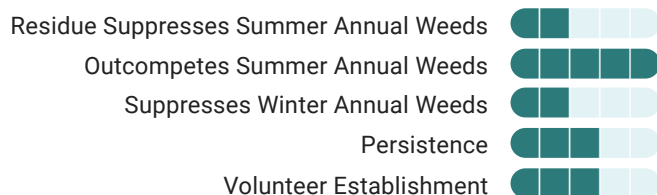


Millet, Pearl - Salon [2020]

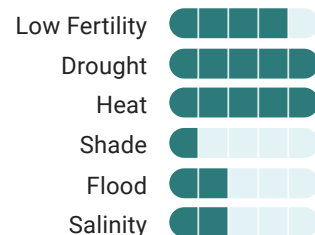
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



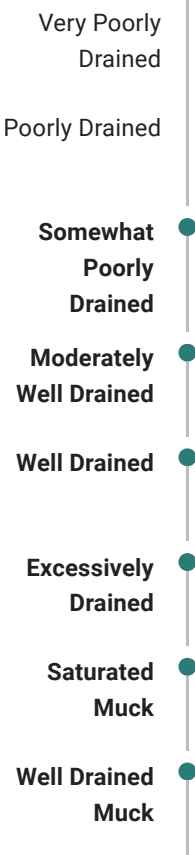


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	3000 - 7000
Soil Texture	Coarse
	Medium
Soil pH	5.5 - 6.8
Soil Moisture Use	Low
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Short
	Daylength day
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	82300
Seed Price Per Lb	
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	10 - 15
Drilled Depth	0.5" - 1"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	65

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	
Tillage At Flowering	
Freezing At Vegetative	
Freezing At Flowering	
Chemical At Vegetative	
Chemical At Flowering	
Mow At Flowering	
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding

Reliable Establishment

Temperature/Moisture Risk

Active Growth Period

Winter Survival

Can Interseed

N/A

05/01 - 07/15

N/A

Summer

Never

N/A

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Extended Comments

Taxonomy: ITIS name conflict: Cenchrus americanus Use BMR forage varieteis for grazing or baleage, use cheaper non-BMR varieties (slightly more lignified) for cover crop use.

Environmental Tolerances: Moving to the north during the summers pearl millet grows better in wet and acidic soils and cooler environments compared to sorghum-sudan or sudan grass.

Forage and Grazing: Used as a summer forage cut to make baleage, or used for grazing. Use BMR forage varieteis for grazing or baleage.

Nematodes: Moderately resistant to root-knot nematode.

Insects: Proso millet (Panicum miliaceum L.) can attract the parasitoids Trichogrammatidae, Scelionidae, Ceraphronidae

References & Resources

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

Summer Cover Crops, Penn State Extension