



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Summer annual grass. Can grow in flooded soils and standing water. Adapted to soil with pH as low as 4.5. Prone to premature flowering if seeded late summer. Very responsive to nitrogen. Good smother crop at high seeding rate but may become weed if allowed to go to seed. Mix with cowpeas, soybeans to create a diverse summer mixture. Shorter, finerstemmed, lower-biomass option compared to sorghum-sudangrass or pearl millet. Does not mow-kill as well and may mature faster/reseed more easily than foxtail millet.







Millet, Japanese - Brown [2020]

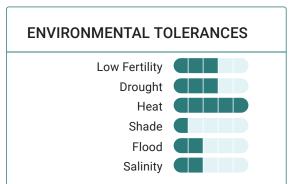
Millet, Japanese - Brown [2020] Millet, Japanese - Brown [2020]

GOALS

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

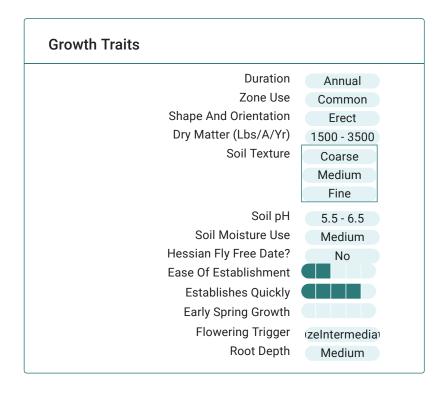
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

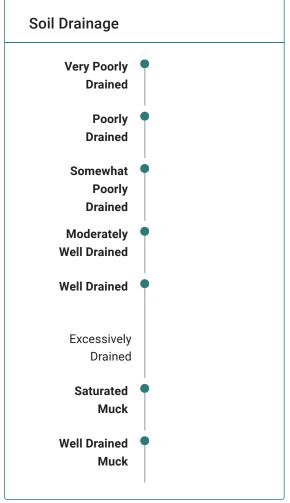
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

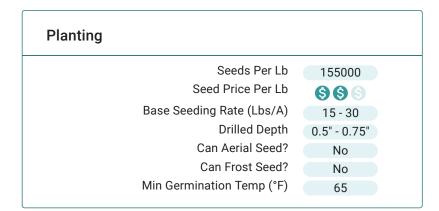


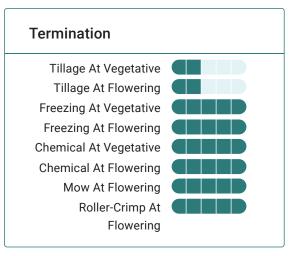


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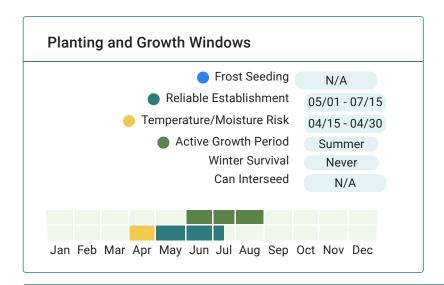








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Extended Comments

Taxonomy: vs Echinochloa frumentacea

Basic Agronomics: we have gotten up to 4 tons/acre dry matter in RI by seeding at 30-40 lbs/acre. Really responds to nitrogen!

Planting: Daylength sensitive. Plant before mid-July to maximize biomass

Growth, Roots, and Nutrients: Plant in June to July in warm soils. ¼ to ½ inch deep. Japanese millet can grow in flooded soils and standing water as long as a portion of the plant remains above the top of the water. Consider Japanese Millet or Brown Top Millet as a summer annual in the North with somewhat cooler temps and acid soils. Grows rapidly, good summer annual smother crop. Fibrous roots that can grow 2 ft deep.

References & Resources

Cover Crop Research at the University of Rhode Island, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide), University of Massachusetts Extension

<u>Cover Cropping for Success</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops for Home Gardens, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Using Green Manures, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Green Manures/Cover Crops, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association