

Grass
Millet, Japanese
Echinochloa esculenta



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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, finer-stemmed, 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]

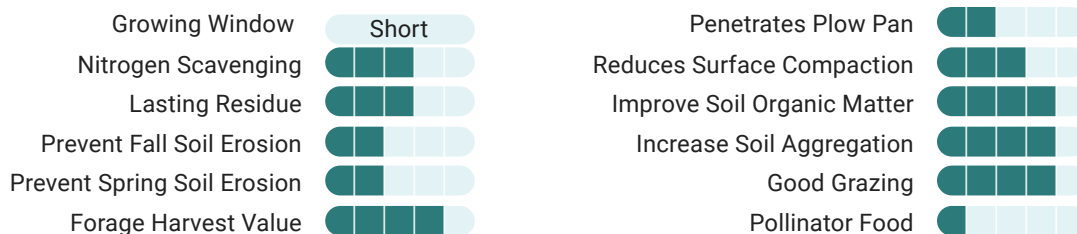


Millet, Japanese - Brown [2020]

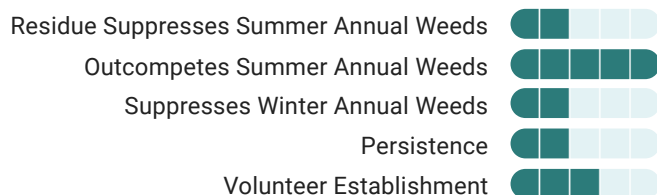


Millet, Japanese - Brown [2020]

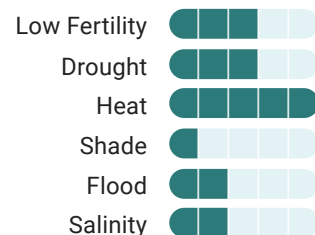
GOALS



WEEDS



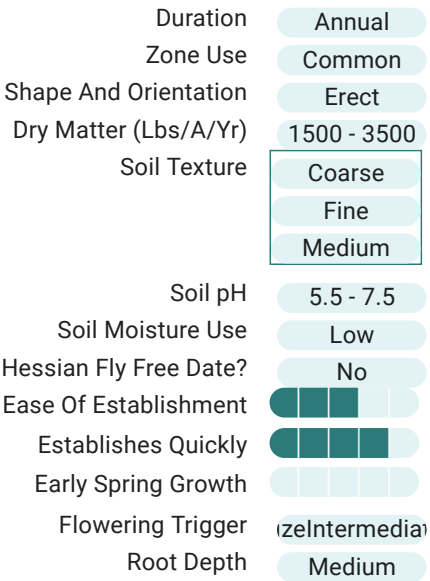
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



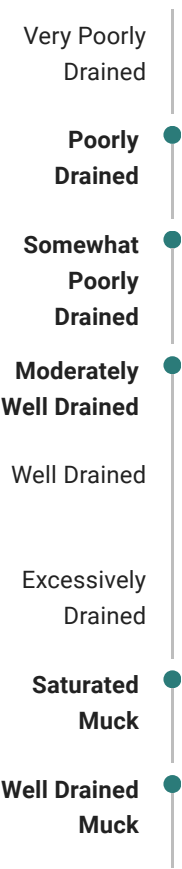


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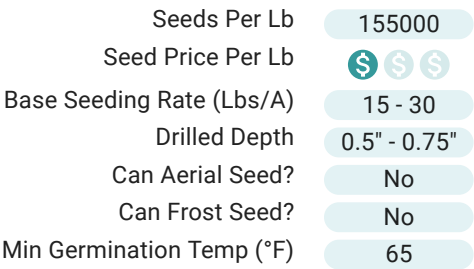
Growth Traits



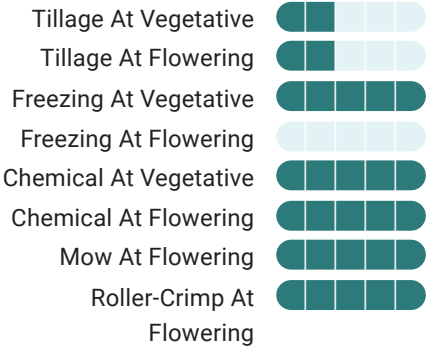
Soil Drainage



Planting



Termination





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Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	05/01 - 07/15
Temperature/Moisture Risk	04/15 - 04/30
Active Growth Period	Summer
Winter Survival	Never
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

Taxonomy: vs Echinochloa frumentacea

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 Crops and Green Manures](#), University of Vermont Extension
[Cover Crops and Green Manures \(New England Vegetable Management Guide\)](#), University of Massachusetts Extension
[Cover Cropping for Success](#), University of Maine Cooperative Extension
[Cover Crops for Home Gardens](#), University of Maine Cooperative Extension
[Using Green Manures](#), Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association