

Grass
Barley, Winter
Hordeum vulgare



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Upright small grain. Widely used in the Northeast. Best small grain for drought, heat, salty or alkaline soils. Not suitable for wet or acid soils. Winter barley typically needs vernalization (overwintering) to produce stalk/head/seed. May stay short and fail to flower if planted in spring. 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). Bloom timing and height match crimson clover, rapeseed when used in a mix. More winter-hardy than oat, less than wheat and rye. Better fall growth and tillers more than wheat and rye but more prone to frost damage. More winter-hardy than oat, less than wheat and rye. Better fall growth and tillers more than wheat and rye but more prone to frost damage.



Barley, Winter - Eagen [2020]

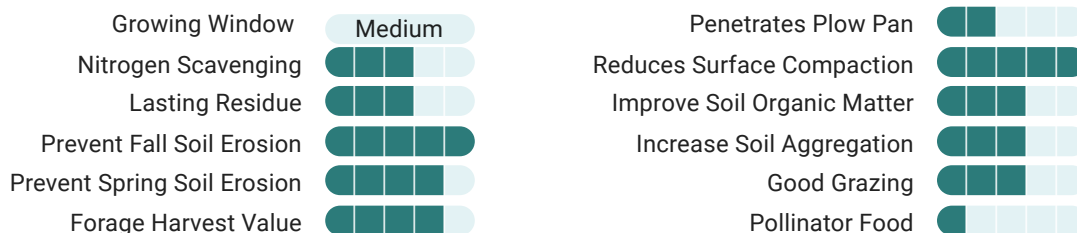


Barley, Winter - Salon [2020]

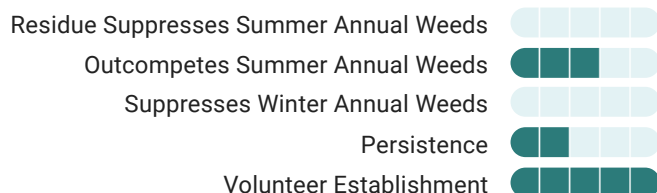


Barley, Winter - Salon [2020]

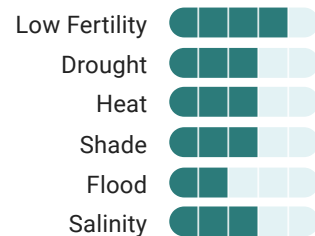
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



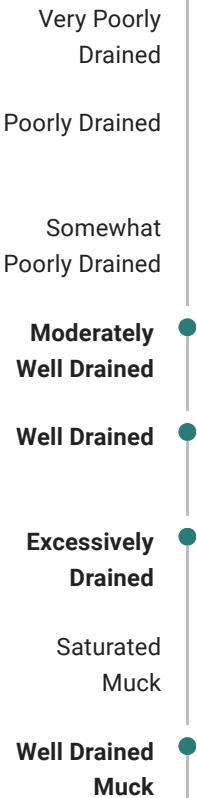


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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Emerging
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1300 - 5000
Soil Texture	Medium
	Coarse
Soil pH	5 - 8.5
Soil Moisture Use	
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	
Establishes Quickly	
Early Spring Growth	
Flowering Trigger	Vernalization
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage



Planting

Seeds Per Lb	
Seed Price Per Lb	\$ \$ \$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	60 - 120
Drilled Depth	0.75" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	38

Termination

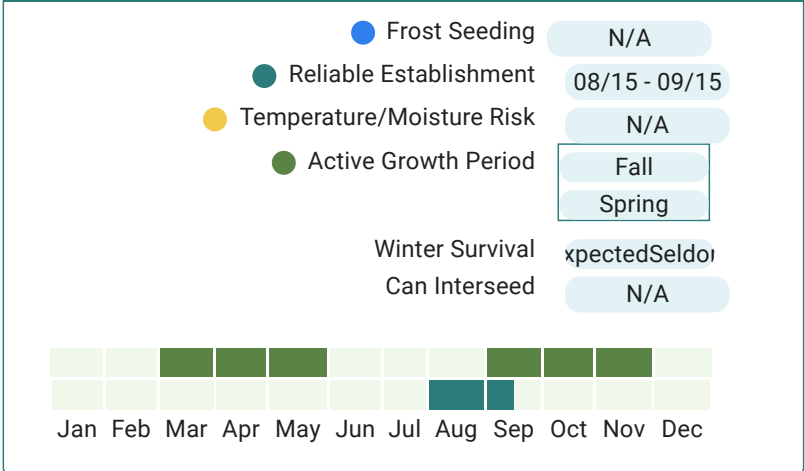
Tillage At Vegetative	
Tillage At Flowering	
Freezing At Vegetative	
Freezing At Flowering	
Chemical At Vegetative	
Chemical At Flowering	
Mow At Flowering	
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	

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Planting and Growth Windows



Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Use barley like you would oats, typically winter-kills.

Forage and Grazing: Failure to overwinter reliably in USDA hardiness zones 5 and colder means biomass production may be low, which potentially limits grazing/forage harvest value.

Insects: Terminating barley early or late showed no impact on arthropod (pest or beneficial) numbers in a subsequent soybean crop

References & Resources

[Under Cover – Integrating Cover Crops into Silage Corn Systems](#), University of Vermont Extension
[Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species](#), University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension