



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Excellent summer grass choice. Plant in early summer; does not tolerate cool soils. Fast-grower, big biomass potential in the presence of lots of soil N. Regrows well after mowing/grazing. Excellent subsoiler with thicker roots than most grasses. Excellent weed suppressor due to competition and allelopathy (caution if next crop is small-seeded). Good forage, but prussic acid and nitrate content can be a problem. Improved forage types available, cultivars may vary widely. Slow drydown will limit dry hay production; chop or wrap for forage. Can produce large amount of biomass; mow or kill in a timely fashion. Can substitute sorghum or sorghum-sudangrass. Mix with cowpea, sunn hemp, and sunflower for a diverse summer mix.





Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

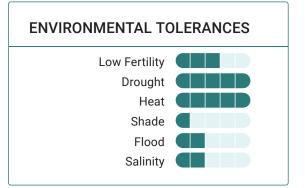
Sudangrass - Ziegler [2020]

GOALS

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

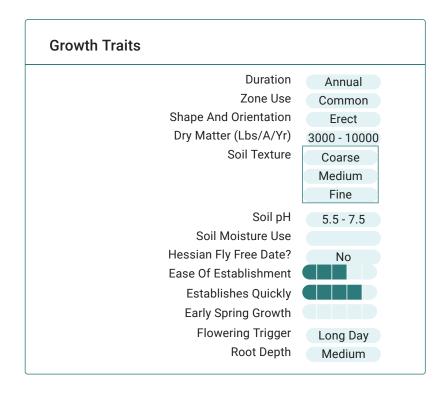
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

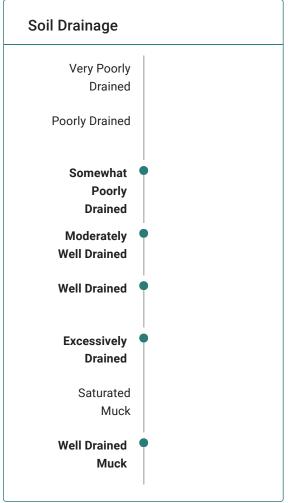
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

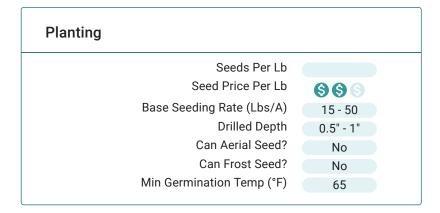


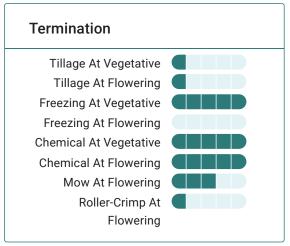


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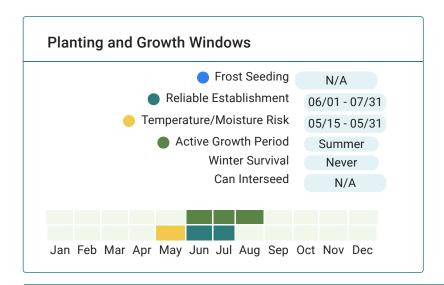








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Extended Comments

Planting: Planting rate is based partly on seed size, which can vary dramatically. Recommended seeding rate here is based on the given seed size.

Nematodes: Host for lesion nematode.

References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension **2015 Cover Crop Mix in Corn Silage Trial**, University of Vermont Extension <u>Cover Crops for Home Gardens</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension <u>Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass</u>, Cornell University Cooperative Extension Early Summer Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension Mid and Late Summer Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension