



#### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

#### **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

Upright small grain. Widely used in the Northeast. Best small grain for drought, heat, saline or alkaline soils. Not suitable for wet or acid soils. Spring barley does not need vernalization (overwintering) to produce stalk/head/seed. 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). Spring barley planted in fall may fail to overwinter due to less winter hardiness than winter barley.





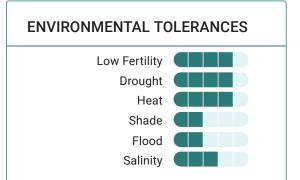
Barley, Spring - Brouillette [2020] Barley, Spring - Raubenstein [2020]

## **GOALS**

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

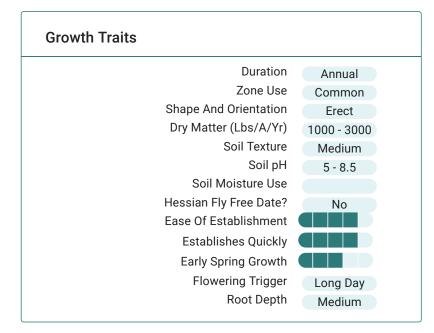
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

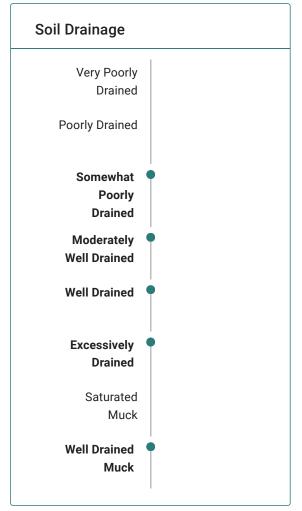
# **WEEDS** Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

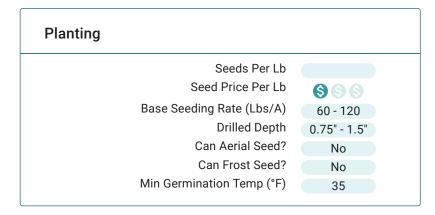


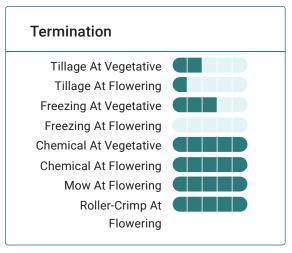


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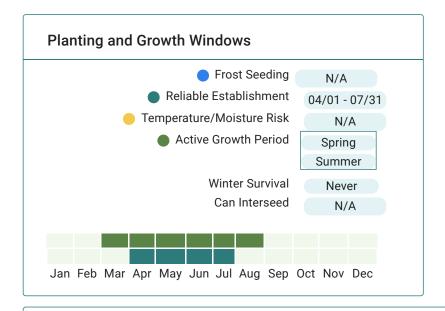








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#### **Extended Comments**

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Tolerates moderately alkaline conditions but does poorly in acid soil < pH 6.0. Bloat potential that is easily managed.

Weeds: If other small grains are to be planted within a year there can be disease problems (especially with tan spot). If alfalfa is to be planted after the small grain, kill small grain volunteer plants with an herbicide.

Forage and Grazing: Bears traffic very well when drilled; more susceptible to heavy traffic when aerially seeded.

Goals: For suppressing winter annuals, must be planted by early fall (early September).

### References & Resources