

#### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

#### **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

Cool-season grass that forms clumps rather than spreading via rhizomes. A short-lived perennial in New England except when intensely managed - prone to dying out under summer stress. Commonly grown for turf or in pastures. Heat-, drought-, and cold- tolerant. Tolerates some shade. Establishes rapidly. Good for forage and grazing. Good in mixes with clovers. Good nurse crop for yellow sweetclover.







Ryegrass, Perennial - Ziegler [2020]

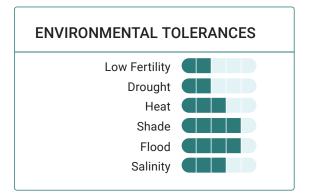
Ryegrass, Perennial - Ziegler [2020] Ryegrass, Perennial - Salon [2020]

## **GOALS**

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

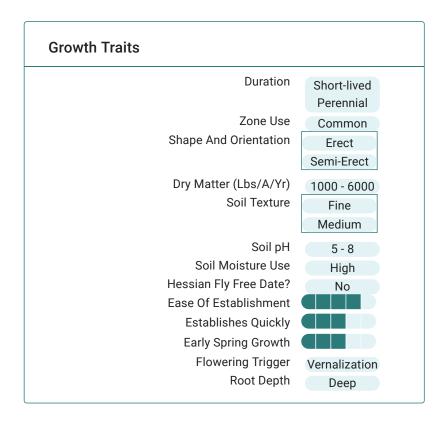
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

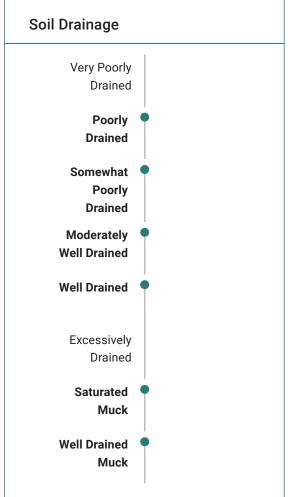
# **WEEDS** Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

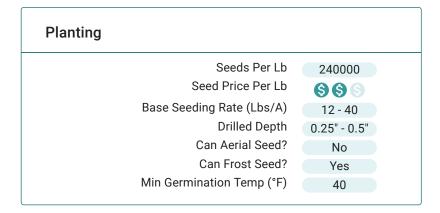


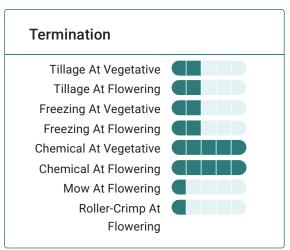


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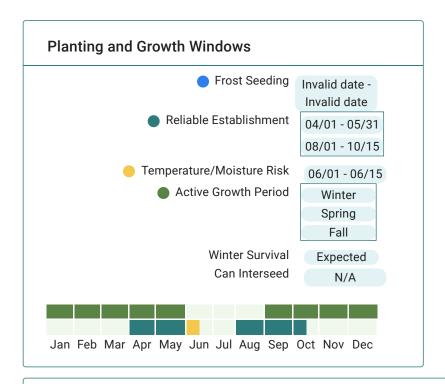








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#### **Extended Comments**

Basic Agronomics: best seeded spring or fall. May die out over summer. Can be used in perennial conservation cover crop mixes to hold banks and quick cover of disturbed soils.

**Planting:** Frost seeding may not be advisable in coastal areas.

Termination: Freezing temperatures are highly unlikely to occur during flowering due to need for vernalization and day length.

Forage and Grazing: Excellent forage

Weeds: If mowing, leave 3-4" to ensure regrowth; Must be killed before it joints or after heading

Nematodes: Host for dagger, lesion, sting, and some species of root-knot nematode





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### **References & Resources**

<u>Forage Species Adapted to the Northeast</u>, West Virginia University Extension Service Pasture and Hay Seeding Rates, West Virginia University Extension Service <u>Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops – Benefits, Selection, and Use</u>, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension <u>Selecting Forage Crops for Your Farm</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension **Ryegrass**, Penn State Extension