

### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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 - Salon [2020]



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# **GOALS**

**Growing Window** Medium 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



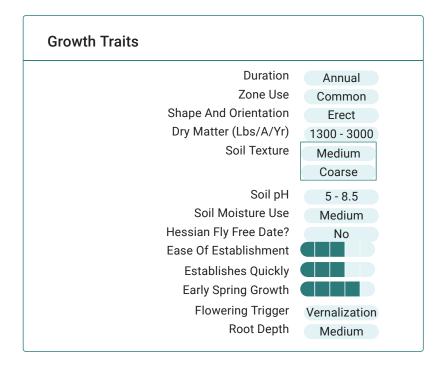
#### **WEEDS**

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

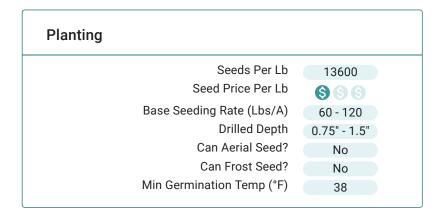
# **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES** Low Fertility Drought Heat Shade Flood Salinity

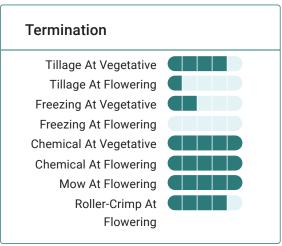


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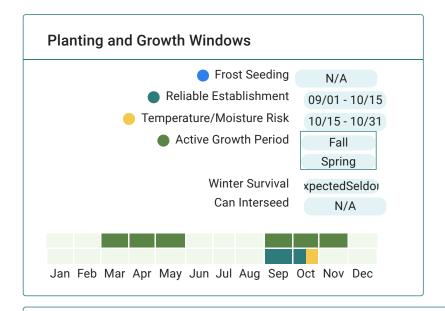








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# **Extended Comments**

Environmental Tolerances: Winter survival varies among cultivars.

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 barler early or late showed no impact on arthropod (pest or beneficial) numbers in a subsequent soybean crop

# References & Resources

Use of Cover Crops and Green Manures to Attract Beneficial Insects, University of Connecticut Integrated Pest Management Program

<u>Under Cover - Integrating Cover Crops into Silage Corn Systems</u>, University of Vermont Extension Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Plant Cover Crops, University of Maryland Extension