

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 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. Planted earlier in fall, matures earlier in spring than wheat. 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]

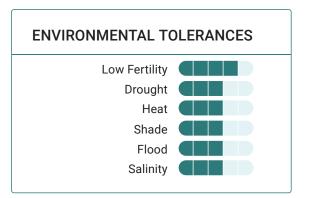
Barley, Winter - Salon [2020]

GOALS

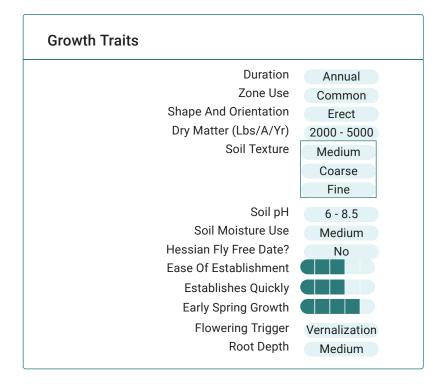
Growing Window Medium Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Forage Harvest Value

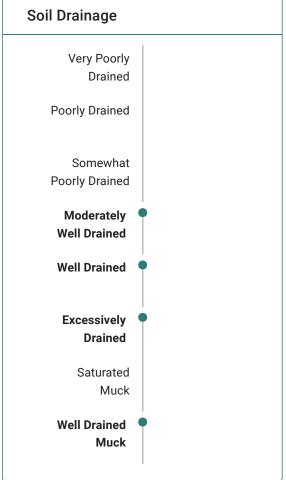
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

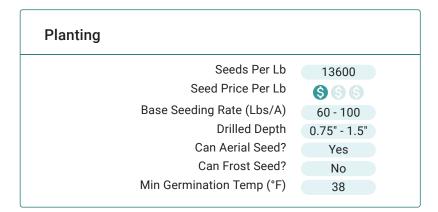
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

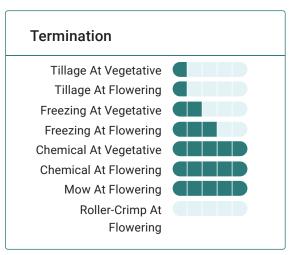


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REPRESENT PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 DATASET



Extended Comments

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.

Environmental Tolerances: Does very poorly under low-N conditions like most grasses.

References & Resources

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops - Benefits, Selection, and Use, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension