

Grass

Barley, Spring

Hordeum vulgare



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 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 some diseases and pests). Spring barley planted in fall may fail to overwinter due to less winter hardiness than winter barley.

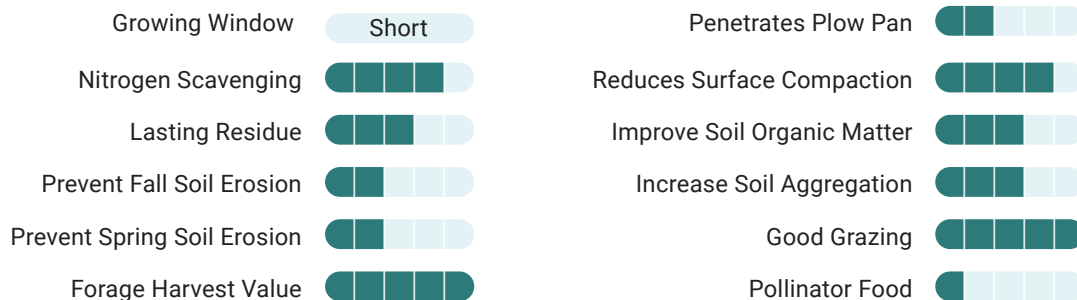


Barley, Spring - Brouillette [2020]

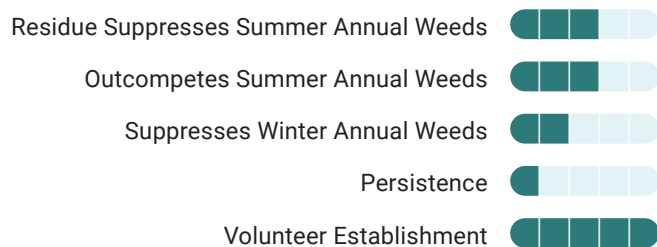


Barley, Spring - Raubenstein [2020]

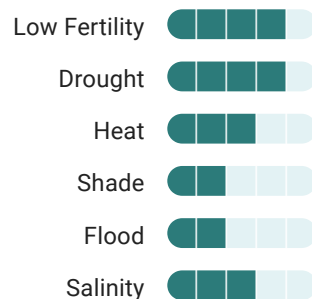
GOALS



WEEDS



ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES



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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1000 - 3000
Soil Texture	Medium
Soil pH	6 - 8.5
Soil Moisture Use	Low
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Establishes Quickly	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Early Spring Growth	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Flowering Trigger	Long Day
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage

Very Poorly Drained	
Poorly Drained	
Somewhat Poorly Drained	
Moderately Well Drained	●
Well Drained	●
Excessively Drained	●
Saturated Muck	
Well Drained Muck	●

Planting

Seeds Per Lb	13600
Seed Price Per Lb	\$ \$ \$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	60 - 120
Drilled Depth	0.75" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	35

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Tillage At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Freezing At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Vegetative	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Chemical At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Mow At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

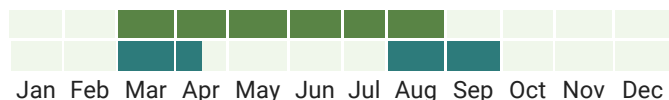
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Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	03/01 - 04/15 08/15 - 09/30
Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
Active Growth Period	Spring Summer
Winter Survival	Seldom
Can Interseed	N/A



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. Consult herbicide label for herbicides used prior to/during cover crop for grazing restrictions.

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

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.

References & Resources

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

Fall Cover Crops. University of Delaware Cooperative Extension