



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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]

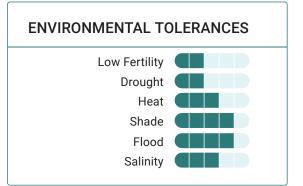
Ryegrass, Perennial - Ziegler [2020] Ryegrass, Perennial - Salon [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window Long 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

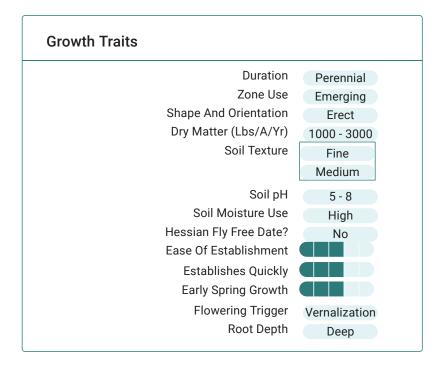
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

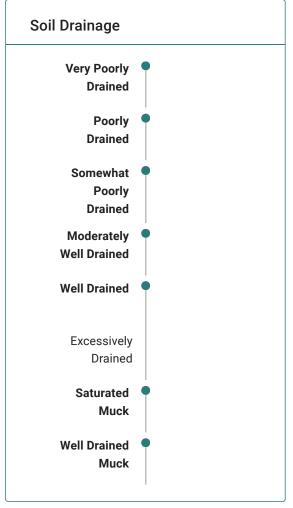


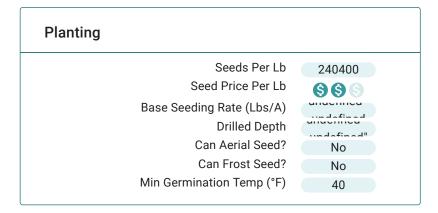


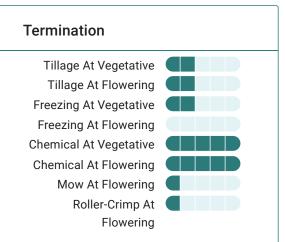


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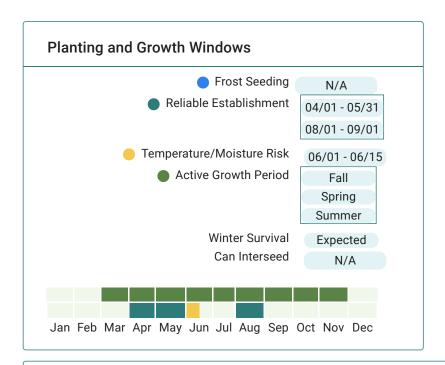








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Extended Comments

Environmental Tolerances: Cultivars vary in terms of winter survival.

Forage and Grazing: Excellent forage

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

Goals: Excellent forage; not as winter hardy as other perennial forage grasses but establishes quickly so may still be useful as a cover crop.

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

References & Resources

Forage Species Adapted to the Northeast, West Virginia University Extension Service Pasture and Hay Seeding Rates, West Virginia University Extension Service <u>Selecting Forage Crops for Your Farm</u>, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Ryegrass, Penn State Extension