

## PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

## **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

Warm-season annual native to Africa. High heat and drought tolerance. Needs heat to grow well. Excellent weed suppressor, fine foliage leaves a clean field for a following crop. Good for forage/hay. Low risk of setting seed, so unlikely to become a volunteer problem. All seed sold is coated due to tiny seed size.







Teff - Brown [2020]

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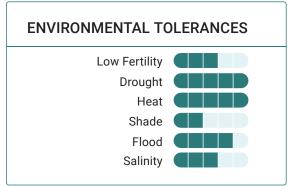
Teff - Brown [2020]

## **GOALS**

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

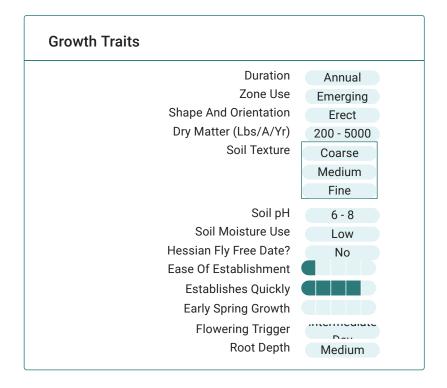
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

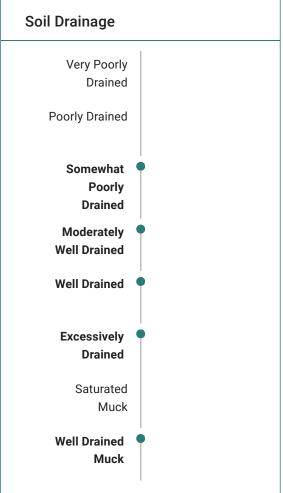
# **WEEDS** Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

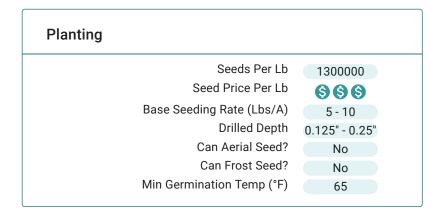


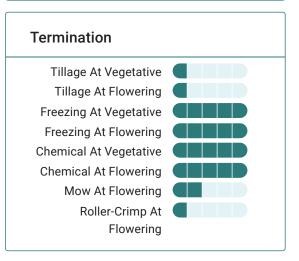


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## **Extended Comments**

**Basic Agronomics:** Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Caution with grazing due to shallow root system.

**Planting:** Seeding rates are for pelleted seed; if using unpelleted seed drop rate to 3 lbs/A. Daylength sensitive; plan before mid-July to maximize biomass production.

Termination: Can effectively terminate by mowing in fall only. Roller-crimper not effective.

**Growth, Roots, and Nutrients:** Needs to be seeded shallowly. Extremely fine seed may require modification of planting equipment. Very firm seedbed.

Forage and Grazing: In theory should be good forage, but may not perform reliably in cool summer areas.

**Disease:** Information too limited to rate P and K effect and Nematodes or Disease. Teff is difficult to get established especially without intense tillage, limiting weed suppression. Once established it should produce lot of biomass and suppress weeds. Information too limited to rate disadvantages to Nematodes or Disease.

**Nematodes:** Supports reproduction of some root-knot nematode species/races.



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## **References & Resources**

<u>Cover Crop Research at the University of Rhode Island</u>, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension <u>Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide)</u>, University of Massachusetts Extension **<u>Teff</u>**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension