



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Common cover crop. Does not need vernalization (overwintering) to flower. Much less likely than winter wheat to overwinter if planted in fall. Very good N scavenger. Excellent quality forage. After well-timed grazings can still produce spring biomass or grain. Not for small grain cash crop rotations (host for same diseases and pests). Fine nurse crop for legumes. Mixes well with winter peas, hairy vetch. Shorter, slower to head means residue easier to manage than rye. Matures later in spring, tolerates wetness better (but not flooding), higher spring biomass potential (but requires high fertility) than barley.





Wheat, Spring - Ackroyd [2020]

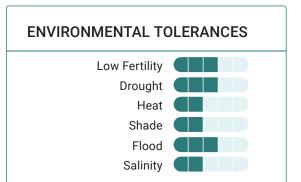
Wheat, Spring - Salon [2020]

GOALS

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

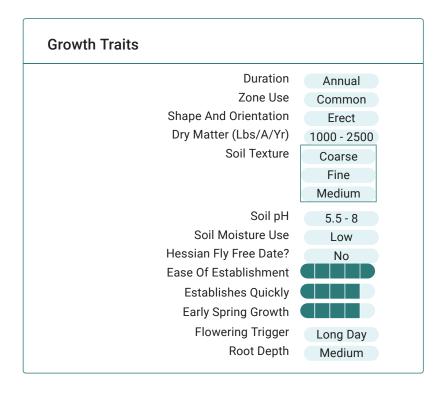
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

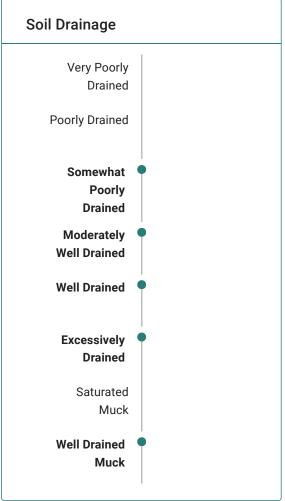
WEEDS Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

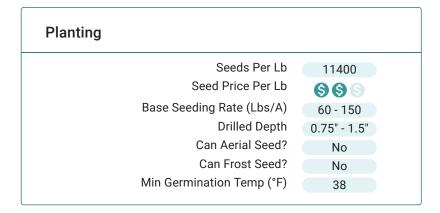


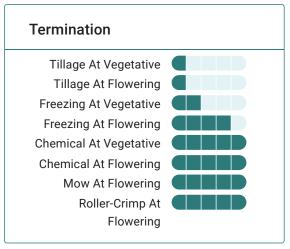


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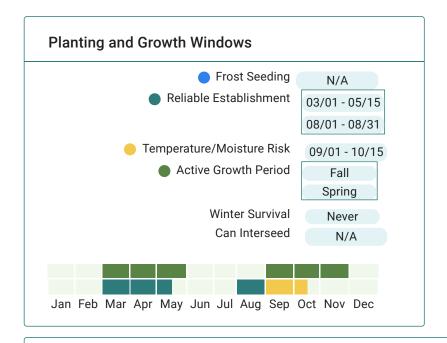








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Extended Comments

Weeds: If planted in rotation with other small grains 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.

Disease: If planted in rotation with other small grains 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