

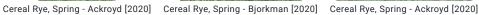


#### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 DATASET

## **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

Best choice for poor/acid soils. Tolerates wet soil. Spring cereal rye germplasm does not require vernalization (overwintering) to flower and may be less winter-hardy than winter cereal rye if planted in the fall. Good cover crop for many purposes: excellent for biomass, N scavenging, weed control. Good forage, but low quality after heading. Best choice for roller-crimping. Height, biomass, high C:N ratio at maturity may hinder a following non-legume cash crop. Potential weed if it sets seed, especially in small grain cash crops. Mixes well with legumes.









# **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

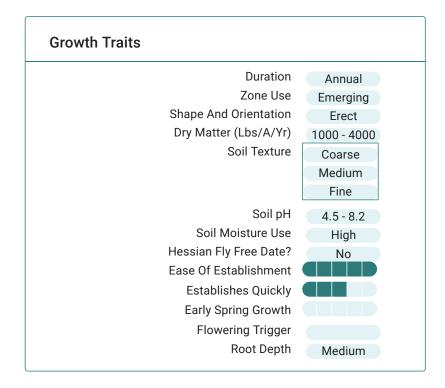


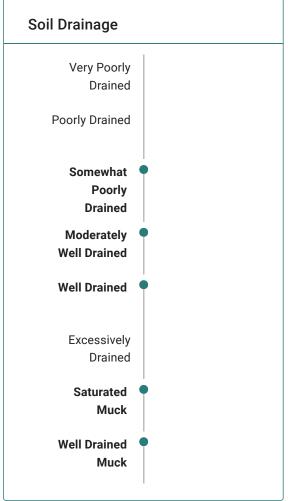
# **ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES**

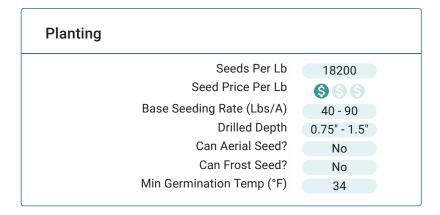
Low Fertility Drought Heat Shade Flood Salinity

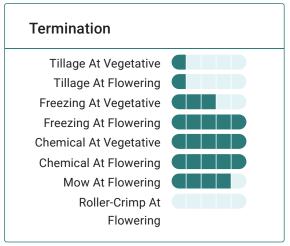


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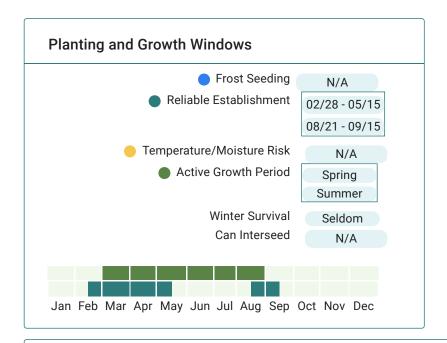




Secale cereale



# PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 7 DATASET



## **Extended Comments**

Soil Conditions: Will not do well on somewhat excessively drained soil if grown to heading but ok for quick spring soil cover.

Weeds: Can become a weed if tilled at wrong stage; Best if killed early; Not recommended before corn; Mow-kills after heading

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

# **References & Resources**

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

Multiple Purpose Cover Crops, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension