

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Common cover crop. Needs vernalization (overwintering) to flower. Not likely to produce seed and will stay shorter if planted in spring. 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 and doesn't compete with legumes as vigorously in sprong. Planted later in fall, matures later in spring, tolerates wetness better (but not flooding), higher spring biomass potential (but requires high fertility) than barley.





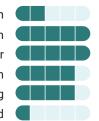
Wheat, Winter - Ackroyd [2020]

Wheat, Winter - 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

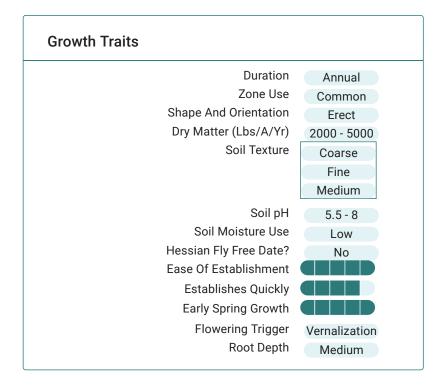
Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

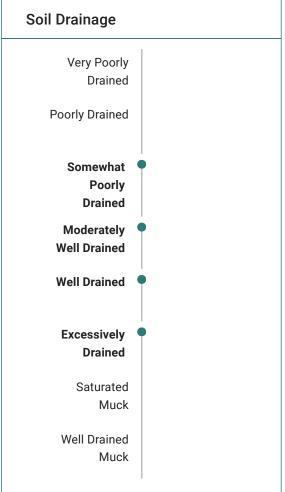
ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

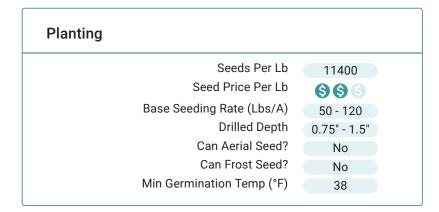
Low Fertility Drought Heat Shade Flood Salinity



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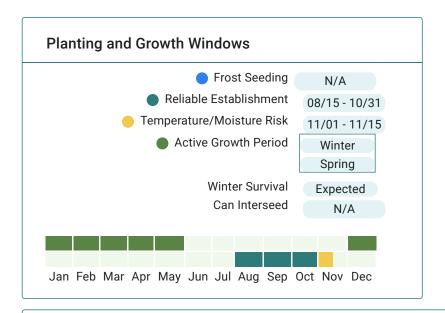








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Extended Comments

Termination: Flowering and freezing temps unlikely to co-occur.

Growth, Roots, and Nutrients: Spelt-type varieties are more tolerant of poor seed-soil contact because awns hold moisture.

Weeds: Absorbs N and H2O heavily during stem growth, so kill before then

Disease: Absorbs N and H2O heavily during stem growth, so kill before then

References & Resources

Fall Cover Crops, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

<u>Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops – Benefits, Selection, and Use</u>, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension

Pasture Production of Selected Forage Species, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

Choosing Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

Late Season Cover Crops, University of Massachusetts Extension

Spring Management of Overwintering Cover Crops - Don't Wait!, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Early Fall Seasonal Cover Crops, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Suppressing Weeds Using Cover Crops in Pennsylvania, Penn State Extension

<u>Cover Crops in Home Gardens Improve Soil and Reduce Erosion</u>, Penn State Extension