



### PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 5 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 the 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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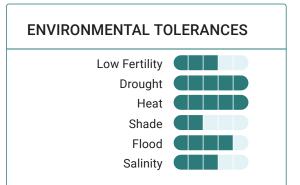
Teff - Brown [2020]

# **GOALS**

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

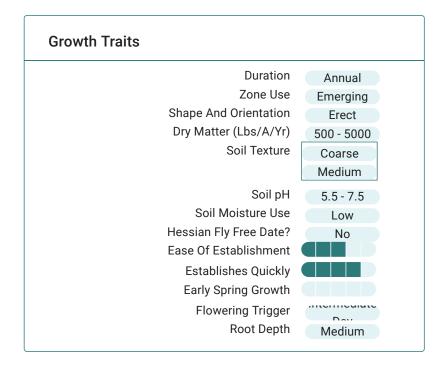
Penetrates Plow Pan **Reduces Surface Compaction** Improve Soil Organic Matter Increase Soil Aggregation **Good Grazing** Pollinator Food

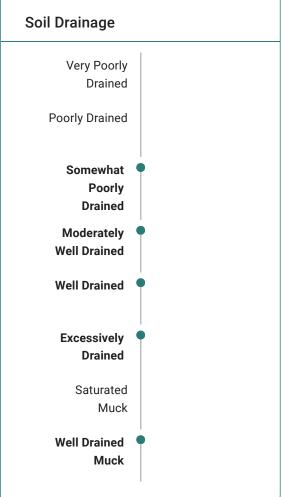
# **WEEDS** Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds **Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds** Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds Persistence Volunteer Establishment

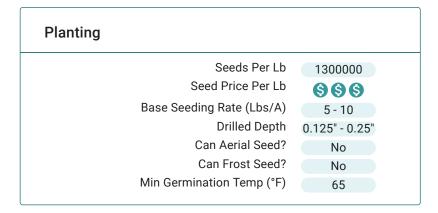


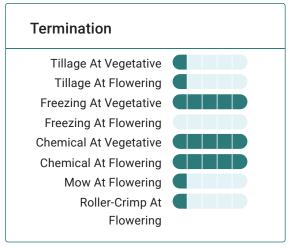


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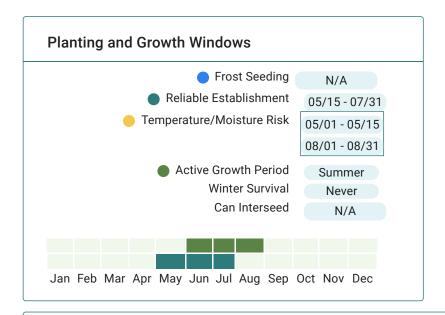








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### **Extended Comments**

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.

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

### References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures (New England Vegetable Management Guide), University of Massachusetts Extension **Teff**, Cornell University Cooperative Extension