Grass

Cereal Rye, Spring

Secale cereale

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 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.

Cereal Rye, Spring - Ackroyd [2020]

Cereal Rye, Spring - Bjorkman [2020]

Cereal Rye, Spring - Ackroyd [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window	Short	Penetrates Plow Pan	●●●○○
Nitrogen Scavenging	●●●●○	Reduces Surface Compaction	●●●●○
Lasting Residue	●●●●○	Improve Soil Organic Matter	●●●●●
Prevent Fall Soil Erosion	●●●●○	Increase Soil Aggregation	●●●●○
Prevent Spring Soil Erosion	●●●●○	Good Grazing	●●●●○
Forage Harvest Value	●●●○○	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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Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Erect
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	1000 - 4000
Soil Texture	Coarse Medium
Soil pH	4.5 - 8.2
Soil Moisture Use	High
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Ease Of Establishment	●●●●●
Establishes Quickly	●●●●●
Early Spring Growth	●●●●○
Flowering Trigger	Long Day
Root Depth	Medium

Soil Drainage

- Very Poorly Drained
- Poorly Drained
- **Somewhat Poorly Drained** ●
- **Moderately Well Drained** ●
- **Well Drained** ●
- Excessively Drained
- **Saturated Muck** ●
- **Well Drained Muck** ●

Planting

Seeds Per Lb	18200
Seed Price Per Lb	$○○
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	50 - 90
Drilled Depth	0.75" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	34

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	●○○○○
Tillage At Flowering	●○○○○
Freezing At Vegetative	●●●○○
Freezing At Flowering	●●●●●
Chemical At Vegetative	●●●●●
Chemical At Flowering	●●●●●
Mow At Flowering	●●●●○
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	●●●●●

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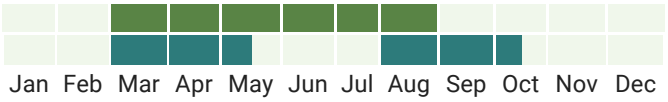
Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	03/01 - 05/15 08/15 - 10/15
Temperature/Moisture Risk	N/A
Active Growth Period	Spring Summer
Winter Survival	Never
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

Termination: Other notes free form here

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

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
Using Green Manures, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association