



# PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 6 DATASET

# **COVER CROP DESCRIPTION**

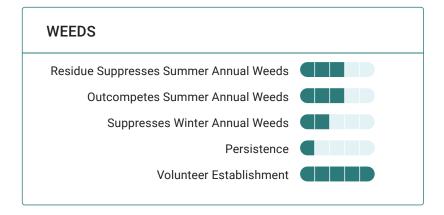
Upright small grain. Widely used in the Northeast. Best small grain for drought, heat, saline or alkaline soils. Not suitable for wet or acid soils. Spring barley does not need vernalization (overwintering) to produce stalk/head/seed. Quick growth and high biomass if fertility is good. Good weed suppressor, N scavenger, forage producer. Retains feed quality after heading. Good nurse crop for legumes. Use care when including as a cover crop in a small grain rotation (host for same diseases and pests). Spring barley planted in fall may fail to overwinter due to less winter hardiness than winter barley.

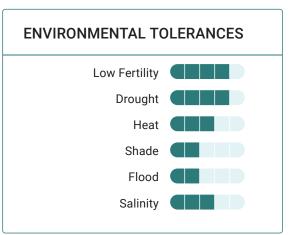




Barley, Spring - Brouillette [2020] Barley, Spring - Raubenstein [2020]

# **GOALS** Penetrates Plow Pan **Growing Window** Short **Reduces Surface Compaction** Nitrogen Scavenging Lasting Residue Improve Soil Organic Matter Prevent Fall Soil Erosion Increase Soil Aggregation **Prevent Spring Soil Erosion Good Grazing** Forage Harvest Value Pollinator Food





# **Barley, Spring**

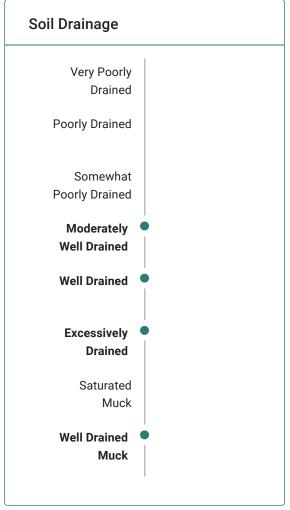
Hordeum vulgare

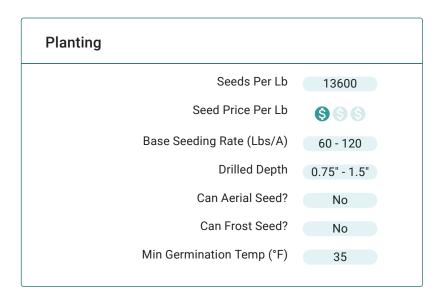


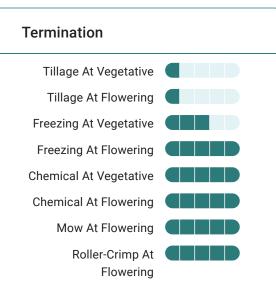


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	Growth Traits
Annual	Duration
Common	Zone Use
Erect	Shape And Orientation
1000 - 3000	Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)
Medium	Soil Texture
6 - 8.5	Soil pH
Low	Soil Moisture Use
No	Hessian Fly Free Date?
	Ease Of Establishment
	Establishes Quickly
	Early Spring Growth
Long Day	Flowering Trigger
Medium	Root Depth







Grass

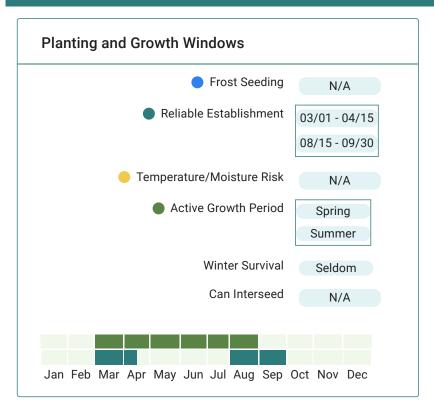
# **Barley, Spring**

Hordeum vulgare





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Grass

#### **Barley, Spring**

Hordeum vulgare





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# **Extended Comments**

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Tolerates moderately alkaline conditions but does poorly in acid soil < pH 6.0. Bloat potential that is easily managed. Consult herbicide label for herbicides used prior to/during cover crop for grazing restrictions.

Forage and Grazing: Bears traffic very well when drilled; more susceptible to heavy traffic when aerially seeded.

Weeds: If other small grains are to be planted 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