

Annual Forage Agronomic Guidelines and Characteristics

R. Mark Sulc

Yield and nutritive value vary greatly with maturity stage at harvest (more information at <https://forages.osu.edu/>)

Forage crop	Pure stand seed rate (lb/acre)	Planting dates ¹	Planting depth (inches)	Nitrogen rate (lbs/acre)	Dry matter yield (ton/acre)	CP (%)	NDF (%)
Corn silage²	28-34k ³	4/20 - 6/15	1.5 – 2.0	Variable ⁴	5 - 9	6 - 9	38-50
Spring oat	75-100	3/15-4/15 or 8/1-9/7	1.5	50-70	2.5-3.5 or 0.8-3.0	10-16	52-65
Spring triticale	90-110	3/15-4/15 or 8/1-9/7	1.5	50-70	2.5-3.5 or 0.8-3.0	10-18	50-65
Winter rye	110	9/1-10/15	1.5	50-70	2-4 in spring	10-18	51-65
Winter wheat	110-120	9/22-10/13 ⁵	1.5	50-70	2-4 in spring	10-18	50-65
Winter triticale	110-120	9/20-10/10	1.5	50-70	2-4 in spring	10-18	50-65
Annual/Italian ryegrass	20-25	4/1-5/1 or 8/1-9/7	¼ - ½	40-50 each cut	2.0-2.5 or 3-6	11-19	50-65
Forage sorghum²	8-12	5/1-7/15	½ - 1	Variable ³	7-8	7-12	50-66
Sudangrass, sorghum-sudan²	20-25	5/1-7/15	½ - 1	Variable ³	3.5-5.0	9-15	55-68
Pearl millet	15-20	5/1-7/15	½ - 1	Variable ³	3.0-4.5	8-17	56-67
Teff	4-5	5/15-7/15	⅛ – ¼	50-60	2-4	13-16	55-65
Kale	3.5-4.0	4/15-6/7	¼ - ½	50-75	3-4	15-20	18-20
Rape	3.5-4.0	4/15-6/7 or 7/10-8/7	¼ - ½	50-75	3.0-3.5	15-20	18-20
Swede	1.5-2.0	4/15-6/7	¼ - ½	50-75	3-4	15-20	18-20
Turnip, turnip hybrids	1.5-2.0	4/15-6/7 or 7/10-8/7	¼ - ½	50-75	3.0-3.5	15-20	18-20

¹ Planting dates for Ohio. In southern Ohio, the spring dates should be in the early range, and in the fall, they can be in the later range.

² Corn silage and sorghum forages should not be fed to horses.

³ 28,000 to 34,000 seeds per acre; seed companies provide hybrid specific planting rates. Corn cover crop seeding may require different rates.

⁴ For corn nitrogen recommendations see <http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/>, for sorghum grasses see Ohio Agronomy Guide, Chapter 7.

⁵ Best to plant after Hessian Fly safe date, consult Ohio Agronomy Guide for dates by region.

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