

Grass and Legumes for Forage, Pastures and Cover Crops
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Crop	Planting Date	Seeding rate per acre (lb)	*Type	Remarks
Red Clover	<i>With oats or barley or alone in spring.</i>	8-12 alone of 2-4 lb. with timothy	CSP (acts as biennial)	Two cuts for hay use. Excellent grazing and forage value.
Sweet Clover	With oats or barley in spring.	12-15 alone	Annual or Biennial	Used primarily as green manure crop.
Alsike Clover	With oats or barley in spring.	3-5 in grass mixture	CSP	Used in lowland pasture mixtures.
Mammoth Clover	Feb- Mid. April.	8-12 alone	Is a perennial but acts as biennial.	Broadcast seeded in winter wheat for green manure pasture.
Alfalfa	With oats or barley in Apr.-May. Clear seeded in Apr. –mid Aug.	12-16 alone or with grass	CSP	Seeding alone with herbicides. Does well on well drained mucks with brome grass. Excellent forage and grazing value.
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Apr- May. Can be seeded with oats or barley in spring or alone by Aug. 1.	10 alone or with grass	CSP	Must remove small grain early as silage, hay, or pasture.
Crownvetch	<i>Clear seed Apr.-June 1.</i>	8-12 alone	CSP	Scarify seed. No companion crop.
Ladino Clover	With oats or barley in spring or Aug. 1-15 alone.	1-2 alone or with grass	CSP	Use ¼ lb. per acre in alfalfa/brome mixtures.
Oats and Peas	April.	2-3 bu. mix in equal amounts.	SA	For silage or baleage. Excellent grazing value and very good forage value.
Sorghum	May 1-25 in S. Mich. June 1-15 in M. Mich.	6-10 in 20 to 40 inch rows	SA	Plant in rows similar to corn. Cut once for silage.
Sudangrass	May 1- June 15 in S. Mich. June 1-15 in N. Mich.	20-30 broadcast	SA	Summer pasture or hay. Excellent forage and grazing value.
Sorghum Sudangrass Hybrid	May 1-June 15 in S. Mich. June 1-15 in N. Mich.	30 broadcast	SA	Green chop or pasture. Very good grazing value and excellent forage value.
Millet, common, pearl, foxtail, Japanese	<i>May 1- June 20.</i>	20-30 broadcast	SA	Use for, hay, or silage. Very good grazing and forage value.
Smooth Brome grass	<i>Spring-Aug. 15 or Nov. 1-20 alone on muck soil.</i>	3-5 in legume grass mixture or	Perennial or Annual	Normally seeded with alfalfa or on mucks dry enough for corn.

		12-15 alone		
Orchardgrass	Spring-Aug. 15 or Nov. 1-20 alone on muck soil.	12-15 alone or maximum of 2 in legume grass mixture	CSP	Normally seeded with alfalfa or on mucks drier than for canary grass. Use late maturing varieties.
Timothy	Spring or Aug 1-15.	2 in legume grass mixture or 8 alone.	Perennial	Normally seeded with alfalfa, red clover, birdsfoot trefoil
Reed Canary Grass	Spring-Sept. 15 or Nov. 1-20.	6 alone	CSP	On wet soils: especially on very wet muck soils.
Kentucky Bluegrass	Early spring or Aug. 15-Sept 15 or Nov. 1-20.	15-25 or 5-10 for pasture	CSP	August planting preferred.
Fescue-tall (endophyte free)	Spring-Sept. 15 or Nov. 1-20.	15 alone	CSP	Pasture .or mixed stands
Italian Ryegrass	Early Spring	15-20	CSP	Very good forage value but is lower in total yield. Single Season Crop.
Fescue Red	Spring-Sept. 15 or Nov. 1-20.	15-30 alone	CSP	Will tolerate shaded conditions. Use for spring cover crop or turf.
Redtop	Spring-Sept. 15 or Nov. 1-20.	2-3 in grass mixture	CSP	Normally not used. Adapted to moist soils in grass mixtures.
Cereal Rye	By Oct. 1.	60-90	SA	Works well in soils where fertility is low and winter temperatures are extreme.
Annual Rye	Sept. 1-Nov. 1	84-112	WA	Excellent grazing value.
Wheat	August	90	WA	Excellent grazing value.
Oats	Soon as possible in spring. By May 15 in S. Mich., by June 1 in N. Mich. or Aug 1-Sept 10	64-80	WA	Excellent grazing value and very good forage value. Summer seeding for fall oatlage or grazing
Perennial Ryegrass	April-Mid May	30 Alone	CSP	Is a bunch grass that is high in forage value but has a lower total yield.
Barley (Winter)	Sept. 10-30	96-120	WA	Very good forage and grazing value.

Adapted from Seeding Practices for Michigan Crops E-2107 and Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide ID-433

***TYPE**

CSP - Cool Season Perennial

SA – Summer Annual

WA – Winter Annual