



ADVANCED AG SYSTEMS'S

Crop Soil News

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"It is the crops that feed the cows that make the milk which creates the money."

What can I plant for this fall harvest?

Is it to late to plant winter triticale for forage quality better than BMR corn?

What can I plant to harvest this fall for emergency forage?

Nothing – it is to late for that other than grazing some of the winter grains and possibly ryegrass. What you can do is to apply 50 – 75 lbs/a of nitrogen (40-0-0-4S) on your grass and mostly grass hay fields. With the rain and cool conditions, it is perfect for growing quality grass and will give you the highest amount of forage in the shortest possible time. Cutting perennial grasses late actually stimulates more tillering for more yield. Perennial grass fields will usually have enough root system to hold the machinery up in the areas that are very wet. Wide swath and tedding will be necessary to get it to dry down so you don't make butyric slop.

Is it to late to plant winter triticale?

The deluges that have hit many of the areas of the Northeast have corn standing in the field (or in our case 4 feet of water). Farms have not been able to chop and so have not been able to plant their winter triticale cover for next spring's forage supply. Because we stressed planting early for top yields, some think it is to late to plant – WRONG!

YOU CAN STILL PLANT WINTER TRITICALE FOR QUITE A WHILE YET

Just as we (Albany NY area) like to get corn in by April 20, there is a lot planted the first half of May, considerable after May 20 and this year, after June 10. As you go later yields decrease but you still get a crop. The same with winter triticale. Most of our work for nitrogen, etc. was conducted using the same planting date as wheat – September 20. At that point we were getting 1.75 to 2.5 tons of dry matter /acre (5 – 7 as fed tons/a) the next spring. This is more than a first cutting alfalfa produces. The crop is off by the end of May and a second crop of short season corn, short season sorghum-Sudan, or soybeand can be grown.

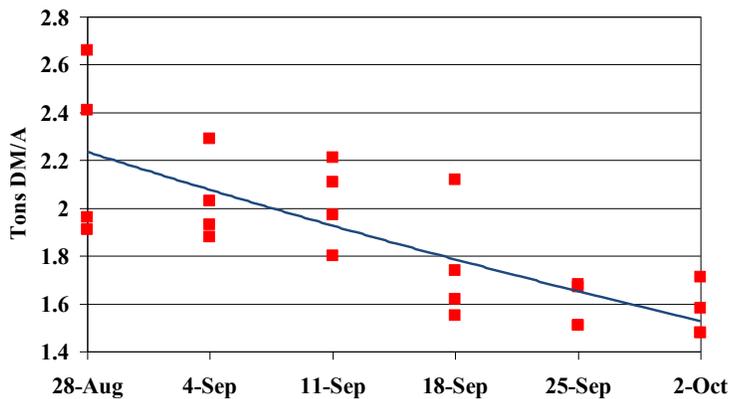
Advanced Ag Systems
Research, Education, Consulting

Winter triticale harvested at flag leaf will give you the earliest forage supply of anything you can grow. In the Albany NY area it has come off as early as May 11 on warm springs and as late as May 20 on very cool springs. This is forage that has a greater milk potential (4,000 – 4,200 pounds of potential milk/ton) than BMR corn silage (3,800 – 4,000 pounds of potential milk/ton) or cream puff alfalfa. It is a high energy, moderate (17%) protein, high sugar, forage with very high kd/hr digestibility (3 to 8 or more) based on commercial varieties in Easter NY trial 2010. This is the forage for high producing cows that have limited rumen space to meet their production needs.

For success you need planting date, seed rate, seed depth, and starter nitrogen

Planting date is optimum at September 1 – but then this is the crop season of 2011 where the rules are all trashed. In one trial in the extremely dry spring of 2010, where yields were 25 – 35% below normal, we still got yields equal to heavy first cut alfalfa all the way through September (see graph at right). In another trial where we planted on September 17 and again on October 17 (photo below), where we had more normal rainfall in the spring, we again got yields that equaled a heavy first cut alfalfa on most farms.

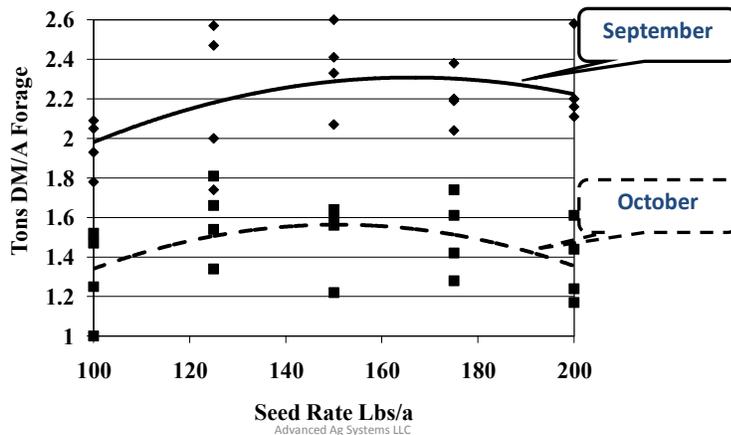
Impact of Planting Date on Yield At Flag Leaf Stage



Seeding rate: 100 lbs of seed/acre is sufficient. As you can see in the one trial at the right, more seed did not offset the later planting.

Starter Nitrogen. Most winter grains for grain use limited starter nitrogen to limit the number of tillers and reduce the lodging and disease potential as they go to maturity. With winter triticale for forage we want the maximum number of

You can not off set late planting with more seed!



tillers and the crop is harvested before it can lodge. Thus we are recommending 40 lbs - 50 lbs of nitrogen if you broadcast to maximize tillering

Seed depth: this is critical especially with later (end of September into October for Albany NY conditions) planting dates. This is because the smaller root system is susceptible to heaving out in the spring. This air prunes the roots and so the plant dies. They call it winter kill but it is simply inadequate planting management. This can be seen in the photos where the upper left is late planted shallow and the lower right was drilled at correct depth in the same field. The earlier planted has more time to establish deep roots in sloppy planting, as does no-till drilled triticale which is into firmer soil.



With the wild weather of some regions begging for rain and others setting record flood levels, assuring you have enough forage is going to be critical. If you are going to be short on corn silage, line up some now, don't wait until the end of the season, or worse—when you run out in March. There will be a number of grain producers who will have corn that will not make maturity. Cool season grasses fertilized can give you the latest forage possible. Winter triticale can give you the earliest mechanically harvested forage next spring. As the saying goes, “This too shall pass.” Until then plan ahead to stay ahead.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kilcer,
Certified Crop Advisor

172 Sunnyside Rd
Kinderhook, NY
12106

Tel: 518-421-2132

tfk1@cornell.edu

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Hand
to Better
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