

Recommended Annual Cool-Season Grass Forage Varieties

Small grains and annual ryegrass are utilized on thousands of acres each year in South Carolina to provide winter forage for cattle. These forages are planted either in clean-till situations or are overseeded into bermudagrass or bahiagrass sods. Questions arise each fall regarding which varieties are best suited to the Mountains, Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas of South Carolina. This short bulletin will list appropriate varieties and the locations they are best adapted. For more information regarding establishment and management of small grains for grazing, see Clemson Forage Leaflet 20 *Winter Annual Grasses for Forage* located at:

<http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/psapublishing/Pages/AGRO/forage20.pdf>

Please keep in mind that seed of most cereal grain species may be in extremely short supply this fall due in large part to high demand for grain varieties and a consequent shift in seed supply. Use of early-planted wheat for forage can increase Hessian fly damage on nearby wheat grain crops. Oats are completely immune to Hessian fly injury and will not produce Hessian flies to attack later planted wheat. Rye is less susceptible to fly than wheat, triticale is in between rye and wheat in Hessian fly susceptibility.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES*

- Rye:**
AGS104; Bates; Early Graze; Oklon; Wintergrazer 70; Wrens Abruzzi; Wrens 96
- Wheat:**
AGS 2000; Pioneer 26R61; Roberts (P,M); USG 3209 (P, M); USG 3592
- Oat:**
Medium: Horizon 270; Horizon 321; Horizon 474; Rodgers (P,M); SS76-40 (CP); and NK-Coker 227.
Late: TAMO 406

Annual Ryegrass:

- Early Varieties:* Bulldog (aka Grazer), Ed, Marshall, Oregro DH-3, Attain (CP)
Late Varieties: Jumbo, Marshall, Oregro DH-3, Verdure, Wax WMN97
Season-Long: Attain (CP), Big Boss (CP), Ed, Flying A, Jumbo, Marshall, Oregro DH-3, Verdure

**Recommended varieties are adapted from the Georgia Statewide Variety Test Program. To my knowledge, this is the only forage test in the Southeastern U.S. Varieties with no location noted are suitable for planting statewide. P= Piedmont, M= Mountain, CP= Coastal Plain. Early, medium and late varieties denote period when forage growth is optimal based upon three years of clipped forage yields relative to other tested varieties.*