

2015 Cool-Season Forage Variety Recommendations for Florida

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The 2015 cool-season forage line-up is ready to share with our Florida Cattlemen. An abundance of rain last spring caused significant problems with seed set and grain harvest for cereal rye, triticale and oat that were locally grown. Cereal rye and triticale, in particular, may be in short supply this planting season. At the present time, only Tricale 342 and Monarch triticale are recommended. Last year we tested several triticale varieties sold in the state that were not adapted to Florida and they were not productive. The oat crop was somewhat hampered, but there should be an adequate seed supply on the market. If rye or triticale seed is unavailable, oat will be a viable substitute. Remember that there is a new strain of crown rust that does attack most of our eastern oat varieties. A later planting date and grazing should minimize the problem, or consider combining oats with ryegrass in a mixture to spread the risk. The new crown rust resistant Legend 567 will be on the market this fall and seed for RAM Oat (LA99016), Horizon 201 and Horizon 306 should be available. If oat is grown for silage or seed, be prepared to spray with a legal fungicide to protect the crop from a crown rust outbreak.

Seed of ryegrass, clovers, vetch and winterpeas should be in plentiful supply. However, we suggest that operations depending on planting cool-season forages request their needs quickly to secure their seed so as to have it available at planting time.

As in most years, moisture is the key to successful fall forage plantings. Our current predictions are for sufficient rainfall during our fall planting window, which generally starts in mid-September through mid-November.

Recommended varieties for planting this fall are listed in Table 1. While there may be other suitable varieties, our recommendations are based on multi-location, multi-year testing under our Florida growing conditions.

We suggest a seeding rate of 90 to 120 lbs per acre for all small grains. If planting a mixture, you should adjust the seeding rate for each component to half of the recommended rate. If you plant late in the season, use the higher end of the recommended seeding rates for each forage. Additional information to help you with seeding rates, planting depth and grazing or hay recommendations are found in Table 2.

Other things to consider:

1. If pastures is not irrigated there is risk involved with planting cool-season forages. Conserved forage or supplements may be the better option.
2. If you do plant winter grazing on non-irrigated land, remember that small grains are more drought tolerant than ryegrass.
3. When planting ryegrass either in a mixture with small grains or alone, plant on wetter sites. Ryegrass needs good moisture for establishment and growth.
4. Vetch and winter peas are fairly drought tolerant. Clovers, however, prefer good moisture for germination and establishment. There is some variation in site suitability for clovers. While, white clovers prefer wetter sites, crimson, red, arrowleaf, and ball are more tolerant of well-drained soils

If you should have questions about planting cool-season forages please contact your local UF-IFAS county agent. An updated and complete version of the 2015-2016 Cool-Season Forage Variety Recommendations will be available on-line shortly at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

Table 1. Recommended Forage Varieties for 2015-2016

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Oat | Horizon 201 SS76-50 | RAM LA 99016 Legend 567 | Plotspike LA 9339 Horizon 306 |
| Rye | FL 401 (very early) FL 104 | Wrens Abruzzi Elbon | Bates RS4 Oklon |
| Wheat | AGS 2038 | SS8641 | |
| Triticale | Trical 342 | Monarch | |
| Ryegrass | Attain Big Boss Bulldog Grazer Verdure Prine | Diamond T Earlyploid Flying A Jumbo Passeral Plus Nelson | Rio TAMTBO Winterhawk Ed Marshall (gray leaf spot and rust susceptible) |
| White Clover | Ocoee Osceola | Louisiana S-1 Regalgraze | Regal Ladino Durana |
| Red Clover | Southern Belle | Barduro | Red Ace |
| Crimson Clover | Dixie | AU-Robin | |
| Arrowleaf Clover | Apache | Yuchi | Blackhawk |
| Alfalfa | Bulldog 805 | | |
| Vetch | Hairy | Cahaba white | Nova II |
| Winter Pea | Austrian (common) | Maple | Whistler |
| Balansa Ball Clover | Fixation Don | Grazer's Select | Segrest |
| Berseem Clover | Bigbee | Frosty | |
| Medic | Armadillo Burr | Devine Little Burr | |
| Lupine | Tifblue | Tifwhite | Frost |

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Table 2. Planting dates, seeding rates, planting depths, and grazing parameters for certain cool-season forage crops.

| Seed-propagated crops ¹ | Planting dates ² | Seeding rates (lbs./acre broadcast) | Seeding depth (inch) | Grazing height (in.) | | Rest period |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----|----------------------------|
| | | | | begin | end | |
| Alfalfa | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 15 - 20 | 1/4 – 1/2 | 10-16 | 3-4 | Hay 35-40 Grazing 15-30 |
| Clover, Arrowleaf | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 8 - 12 | 0 – 1/2 | 8-10 | 3-5 | 10-20 |
| Clover, Ball | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 2 - 3 | 0 - 1/4 | 6-8 | 1-3 | 7-15 |
| Clover, Berseem | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 15-20 | 1/4 – 1/2 | 8-10 | 3-5 | 10-20 |
| Clover, Crimson | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 20 - 25 | 1/4 – 1/2 | 8-10 | 3-5 | 10-20 |
| Clover, Red | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 10-15 | 1/4 – 1/2 | 8-10 | 3-5 | 10-20 |
| Clover, Subterranean | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 15 - 20 | 1/4 -1/2 | 6-8 | 1-3 | 7-15 |
| Clover, White | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 3 - 4 | 0 - 1/4 | 6-8 | 1-3 | 7-15 |
| Fescue, Tall | Nov. 1 - Dec. 15 | 20-25 | 1/4 -1/2 | 4-8 | 2-3 | 15-30 |
| Oats for forage | Sept. 15 - Nov. 15 | 100-120 | 1 - 2 | 8-12 | 3-5 | 7-15 |
| Pea, Austrian Winter | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 40 - 60 | 1/2 - 1 | Poor grazing tolerance. Better suited as a hay or silage crop. | | |
| Rye for forage | Oct. 15 - Nov. 15 | 90 - 120 | 1 - 2 | 8-12 | 3-4 | 7-15 |
| Ryegrass, Italian (annual) | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 20 - 30 | 0 – 1/2 | 6-12 | 3-4 | 7-15 |
| Sweetclover | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 10 - 15 | 1/4 -1/2 | 8-10 | 3-5 | 10-20 |
| Turnips | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 5 - 6 | 1/4 – 1/2 | 6-8 | 2-3 | varies |
| Vetch, hairy | Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | 20 - 30 | 1 - 2 | 6-8 | 3-4 | varies |
| Wheat for forage | Oct. 15 - Nov. 15 | 90 - 120 | 1 - 2 | 8-12 | 3-5 | 7-15 |
| Triticale for silage | Oct. 15 - Nov. 15 | 90 - 120 | 1 - 2 | Harvest for silage at milk or soft dough stage of maturity. | | |

¹ Always check seed quality. Seed germination should be 80% or higher for best results.

² Planting date range: in general, cool-season forage crops in northern Florida can be planted in the early part of the planting date range and in southern Florida, in the latter part of the planting date range.