



ANNUAL RYEGRASS

You may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do you know the benefits of each species? Each month we'll highlight a different cover crop species to provide you with the information needed to successfully grow covers or alternative forages on your operation.

AT A GLANCE

- Great addition to the operation, providing soil health benefits and high-quality forage
- Germinate at soil temperatures around 40 degrees
- Continue to grow with proper sunlight and conditions with excellent winter hardiness

PLANTING DETAILS

- Plant anytime in the growing season prior to the beginning of October
- Great establishment in non-incorporated and incorporated situations
- Rates vary depending on the situation but range from 10 to 25 pounds per acre

RYEGRASS AS A FORAGE

- High quality forage is available through the early seedhead stage
- High digestibility and protein
- Grazing can begin when the biomass reaches a height of 6", rested for one to two weeks before grazing continues
- As a hay, annual ryegrass will produce two tons of dry matter per acre

BENEFITS

Nitrogen and Phosphorus Benefits

Nutrient recycling and recovery are just two of the benefits associated with annual ryegrass. Nitrogen can be recycled providing up to 80 pounds per acre. When planted for several years, annual ryegrass will aid in the transformation of phosphorus to become available to plants.

Organic Matter and Nutrient Retention

Annual ryegrass's thick mat of biomass will increase the amount of organic matter improving the water holding capacity, nutrient retention, and overall health of the soil. This species makes a great interseeding cover crop, as it will go dominate around 80 degrees not robbing nutrients from the growing cash crop.

Dry Matter

As a hay, annual ryegrass will produce two tons of dry matter per acre.



**MORRISON SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
<https://morrisonswcd.org/>