



TRITICALE

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

AT A GLANCE

- Triticale is a popular grain, forage, and up-and-coming cover crop across the world
- A high biomass makes it excellent for soil health and erosion reduction
- Developed in the 19th century in Germany and Scotland

PLANTING DETAILS

- Plant in mid-July to mid-October
- Ground temperatures should be 65 degrees
- Plant a minimum of 50 lbs/acre depending on use
- Seeds/lb: 18,000-23,000
- Planting depth should be 3/4" to 1 1/2"

TRITICALE BACKSTORY

- Grain hybrid cross between wheat and rye that was first bred in Germany and Scotland in the late 19th century
- Has become a critical grain crop and cover crop in over 30 countries
- Triticale was bred to provide the yield and quality of wheat with the hardiness of rye
- Mainly used as a forage, Triticale is only recently being used as a cover crop

BENEFITS

Soil Nutrients

Triticale produces large amounts of biomass that add nutrients back into the soil when tilled under or used as forage.

Erosion Reduction

The large biomass is also useful cover for reducing erosion.

Winter Hardiness

Triticale should be planted in the middle of July and not later than mid-October. The grain should have some growth before colder temperatures and winter occur.



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