

SUDANGRASS

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

- Should be planted in summer between the first of June and the first of August
- Excellent for hay and haylage
- Great for soil compaction and weed control

CENTRA SOTA

CENTRA SOTA COOPERATIVE

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PLANTING DETAILS

- Warm-season grass, planted later in the summer growing season, between 3/4" - 2" planting depth
- Seeding rate should be 20-40 lbs/acre
- Rapid emergence and growth makes it ideal for green chop, dry hay, or short-term pasture
- Best performance in temps 60-85

SUDANGRASS AS A FORAGE

- Minimum growth of 18", three-four week recovery period
- Hay and haylage sudangrass are excellent due to slender culms and higher dry matter yields of up to five tons an acre
- High levels of crude protein and digestible nutrients - 15 to 20% lower in available energy when compared to corn silage

BENEFITS

Soil Health & Compaction

Sudangrass has an extensive fibrous root system. The roots will break up soil compaction and renovate soil. It's not recommended to interseed sudangrass into any standing crop but can be used in a variety of cover crop and forage mixes at the end of the cash crop season.

Weed Control

High amount of biomass makes a great weed suppressant cover crop.

Prussic Acid

Prussic acid poisoning can occur if there is excessive nitrogen fertilization that has occurred or if animals are grazed before ten days after a frost has occurred.