# WINTER BARLEY

- Ideal for the entry-level cover cropper as it will not overwinter in most areas of the Midwest
- The perfect nurse crop for legumes and brassicas
- Oats offer unique symbiotic relationship with many other cover crops (increased mycorrhizae colonization)
- Oats effectively scavenge left over nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium left over from cash crops, especially when given enough time to mature
- Heavy producer of bio-mass in 8-10 weeks; • great for smothering weeds
- Left over residue (if any) in spring can easily be managed with light disking
- Spring oats can be planted in the fall, as long as it's early • enough to justify 90-100 day production
- **Differences exist between forage oats** • and earlier maturing varieties
- Best use: Silage (milk-dough stage) and hay (boot-heading stage)

### **Description:**

Spring oats are a coll season annual cereal. Oats are helpful for suppressing weeds, preventing erosion, scavenging excess nutrients, adding biomass or as a nurse crop. If growing conditions are good, and with proper management, dry matter can be as much as 2,000 - 4,000 pounds in late summer or early fall, and 8,000 pounds in spring stands.

Planting Time: Mar-Apr, Aug-Sep

### **Non-Forage Benefits:**

1 = Poor: 5 = Excellent

- **Compaction Alleviation:** 2
- Weed Suppression: 4
- Biomass Production: 5 (Hay); 4 (Silage)
- **Erosion Control:** 4
- Disease/Pest Control: 3
- **Pollinator/Beneficials:** 1
- P & K Cycling: 3
- **Ease of Establishment:** 4

### **Seeding Rate:**

Mono (lbs./acre): 30-50 Mix (lbs./acre): 20-40 Forage (lbs./acre): 80-120

### **Seeding Info:**

Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio (C:N): Vegetative- 20:1 (Hay); Straw- 80:1 (Silage) Seeding Depth (in./with drill): 3/4-1 Seeds/lb.: 15-18,000 Bulk Density (Ibs./ft.3): 38 (Hay); - (Silage) Aerial Application Rate: 20-60 Germination Soil Temp.: 38 F **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 7 Days to Emergence: 5-8



## **Planting Window**

- No later than September 25 1.
- 2. No later than October 5
- 3. No later than October 15
- 4 No later than October 25
- 5. No later than November 1

### PLANTING WINDOW DATES ARE FOR FALL RYE, TRITICALE AND BARLEY



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