



## SPRING 2013

# FORAGE MAXIMIZATION PRODUCT OPTIONS

### LEGUMES & GRASSES

- A) *Overseed pastures and fertilize grass stands to increase yield. Frost seed as early as practical.*
- B) *Early spring seed with Sprint or forage oat nurse crops for maximum first harvest tonnage.*
- C) *Summer seed July 15 to no later than September 30, for spring 2014 harvest.*

Alfalfa and grass seedings can be made when there is enough moisture to enable stand establishment. Summer alfalfa seedings should be done in time to allow enough growth for adequate winter survival. **Caution be aware of potential herbicide residual when selecting fields for summer seeding.**

### SPRINT PEA & OAT MIXTURES / FORAGE OATS / SPRING TRITICALE

*Plant early spring and underseed with legumes for early summer harvest, OR plant late summer, fall 2013 harvest, good to very good yield potential.*

**Sprint** (oat and pea) can be planted in late July or early August for a fall forage crop. **Sprint** can be very productive as oats grow very aggressively in the fall. Underseeding with grass seed is not advised in the summer planting. Follow harvest with triticale planting for May 2014 harvest. **Jerry and Forage Plus** forage oats plant early spring or mid-August. Underseed with legumes and grasses for haylage or hay or follow with summer annuals.

**Spring triticale and forage peas** can be planted early spring followed by corn silage or summer annuals.

### SILAGE CORN

*Plant April until July, for fall 2013 harvest, very good to excellent yield potential.*

Early planted, adapted varieties of corn silage offer best yield potential. However, planting **corn** for silage is a viable option until at least July 4th and later in emergencies. Growing conditions after planting impact dry matter yields. Respectable yields with good quality can be produced. Whole plant moisture tends to be higher than normal with delayed planting, but reduced fiber maturation helps quality. Grain content will likely be lower than normal, depending heavily on growing conditions and timing of fall frost. **MATURITIES SHOULD NOT BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED** in late planting situations for silage because short season hybrids are much lower yielding. Rolling maturities back 5-10 days may be effective where higher whole plant moistures are not desirable, but more drastic maturity reductions reduce dry matter yield potential. **Silage corn may be the only option for corn replants when herbicides have already been applied.** A PSNT N test is advised to evaluate soil N status due to the potential for N leaching because of excessive rain. Follow silage corn harvest with **triticale** planting for May 2014 harvest.

### SUMMER ANNUALS / SORGHUMS / SUDANGRASS

*Plant late spring to early summer, for fall 2013 harvest, very good to excellent yield potential.*

**Forage sorghum, sorghum-sudan hybrids and sudangrass** can all be planted for forage as soon as the ground has warmed to **60 degrees** and is dry enough to plant. **Prussic acid poisoning potential can be a problem in sorghum and sorghum-sudan hybrids with droughted and freshly frosted forage. This can be managed by ensiling the crop for six weeks or keeping freshly frosted forage away from livestock for one week following frost.** **Sudangrass** has much lower prussic acid poisoning potential. The **BMR "brown midrib" sorghum-sudan hybrids** are ideal for higher fiber quality. Hybrids usually have more vigor and yield potential. **Sterile sorghums** have very high palatability and boost intake. **Follow with fall triticale for early spring forage.** Timeliness of harvest is critical to maximizing quality.

## RYEGRASS

***Plant mid-spring through September, for fall 2013 and spring 2014 harvest, adequate yield potential.***

**Ryegrass** has outstanding forage quality for pasturing and limited hay in straight stands and mixtures. In mild winter areas, a winter annual habit ryegrass can be planted with some forage produced in fall and another crop in spring. Two product types exist, tetraploid and diploid. Tetraploids establish faster and yield more in the year of establishment, they have larger and thicker leaves. **Tetraploids are less winter hardy and should only be used as a two-year forage crop in very mild winter areas of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.** Diploids start slower and are better adapted to survive Northeast winters. Both have extremely high forage quality. Neither handle drought stress well. Plant on sites with good soil moisture.

## SOYBEAN / SORGHUM MIXTURES

***Plant late spring to early summer, for fall 2013 harvest, excellent yield potential.***

**Double SS** (bmr “brown midrib” forage sorghum and forage soybean) is an outstanding annual forage crop where moderate to high pH soils with good fertility support its yield potential. Herbicides are not required. These mixtures are very drought tolerant. Do not underseed with grass seed - **Double SS** is too competitive. Harvest and plant triticale for May 2014 harvest followed by silage corn for fall 2014 harvest.

## JAPANESE MILLET

***Plant late spring, for fall 2013 harvest, fair yield potential.***

Best for poorly drained and lower pH soils. Good for cool areas at high elevation and in the north. It can usually be cut and baled as hay for heifer feed in most seasons.

## PEARL MILLET

***Plant late spring, for fall 2013 harvest, fair yield potential.***

Bushy type hybrid with high yield potential. Widely adapted to many diverse geographic regions. No prussic acid concerns. 63 days to boot stage. Forage produced is virtually all leaves which gives high levels of crude protein concentrations and high TDN values.

## TRITICALE

***Plant August, for spring 2014 harvest, good to very good yield potential.***

**Triticale** can be fall planted for spring forage. Forage quality can be excellent if weather permits timely cutting. **Rye** and **triticale** are the most universal options. **Triticale is better than rye** where later maturity is useful and has much better feed value. **Rye** harvest usually conflicts with normal corn planting time. **Triticale** is later, coming in between corn planting and first cutting hay. These maturity differences are critical because harvest windows are extremely short, often two to three days for best quality. Hot weather pushes these cereal forages out of condition rapidly. The addition of **hairy-vech** to fall planted cereals can boost forage quality. Both rye and triticale display some tolerance to atrazine herbicides.

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