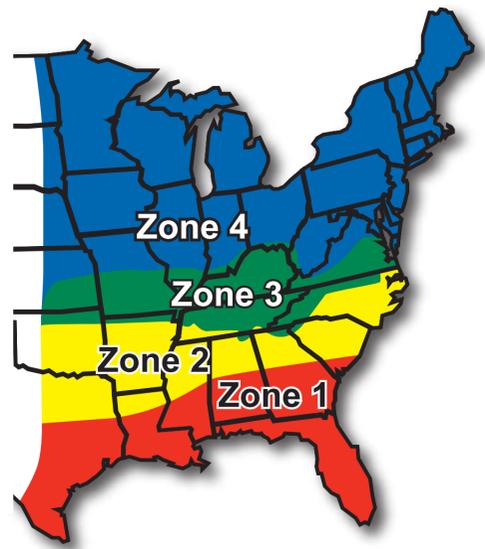




SEED PLANTING GUIDE FOR COMMON FORAGES FOR THE EASTERN UNITED STATES



*Class: Forb = F, Annual = A, Grass = G, Perennial = P, Legumes = L
 **Rate: PLS - Pure Live Seed, D - Drill, B - Broadcast

Recommendations listed below are of a general nature. Always check with your county agent or experiment stations for more detailed information.

Forages	Class*	Rate**/ac.	Depth to Plant	Time To Plant				Remarks
				Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	
Alfalfa <i>(Medicago sativa)</i>	L/P	15 - 20 lbs.-D 20 - 25 lbs.-B	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Oct 15 - Nov 15	Sept 15 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 1 Mar 15 - Apr 15	Aug 15 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - May 15	Plant in well drained, fertile soil. Lime to pH 6.5 - 7.0. Check locally for suitable varieties.
Alyceclover <i>(Alysicarpus vaginalis)</i>	L/A	15 - 20 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Apr 15 - Jun 15	Apr 15 - Jun 15	May 1 - Jul 1	May 1 - Jul 1	Grows best in the Gulf Coast Area in well drained sandy soils.
Austrian Winter Pea <i>(Pisum sativum subsp. arvense)</i>	L/A	20 - 40 lbs.	3/4 - 1 1/2	Oct 15 - Nov 15	Sept 15 - Nov 15	X	X	Responds well to fertilization. Intolerant of acid soils.
Bahiagrass <i>(Paspalum notatum)</i>	G/P	15 - 20 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Apr 15 - Jun 15	May 1 - Jun 15	X	X	Tolerant of drought, low fertility, and soil acidity.
Bermudagrass <i>(Cynodon dactylon)</i>	G/P	5 - 10 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Apr 15 - Jun 15	May 1 - Jun 15	May 15 - Jun 15	X	Plant on firm seed bed. Responds well to nitrogen and potassium fertilizers.
Big Bluestem <i>(Andropogon gerardii)</i>	G/P	6 - 10 lbs. (PLS)	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	May 1 - Jun 15	May 1 - Jun 15	May 15 - June 15	Slow to establish. Does not tolerate close continuous grazing.
Birdsfoot Trefoil <i>(Lotus corniculatus)</i>	L/P	4 - 6 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	X	X	Aug 15 - Oct 1	Aug 15 - Oct 1	Tolerant of moderate soil acidity. Non-bloating legume.
Brassica								
Kale <i>(Brassica oleracea)</i>	F/A	4 - 5 lbs.	1/4 in.	Sept 1 - Nov 1 Feb 1 - Mar 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Feb 15 - Apr 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Rotate to non-brassica species at least every two years.
Rape - Forage <i>(Brassica napus)</i>	F/A	4 - 5 lbs.	1/4 in.	Sept 1 - Nov 1 Feb 1 - Mar 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Feb 15 - Apr 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Rotate to non-brassica species at least every two years.
Turnips <i>(Brassica rapa)</i>	F/A	4 - 5 lbs.	1/4 in.	Sept 1 - Nov 1 Feb 1 - Mar 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Feb 15 - Apr 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Rotate to non-brassica species at least every two years.
Chicory <i>(Cichorium intybus)</i>	F/P	4 - 5 lbs.	1/4 in.	Sept 15 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Mar 1 - May 1	Mar 15 - May 15 Aug 1 - Sept 15	Short lived perennial forb with excellent tolerance to drought and soil acidity. Highly nutritious and palatable.
Clovers								Seed should be inoculated.
Alsike Clover <i>(Trifolium hybridum)</i>	L/P	8 - 12 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	X	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 15 - May 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15 Mar 15 - May 1	Prefers cool climates and wet soils.
Arrowleaf Clover <i>(Trifolium vesiculosum)</i>	L/A	8 - 10 lbs.	1/8 - 1/2 in.	Sept 15 - Nov 1	Sept 15 - Nov 1	X	X	Prefers a pH of 5.8 - 6.5. Reseeds well. High yielding.
Ball Clover <i>(Trifolium nigrescens)</i>	L/A	2 - 3 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Sept 15 - Nov 1	X	X	X	Reseeds well. Tolerant of poor drainage and moderate soil acidity.
Berseem Clover <i>(Trifolium alexandrinum)</i>	L/A	20 - 25 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Sept 15 - Nov 1	X	X	X	Grows best on high fertility soil with pH of 6.0 or above. Responds to Boron applications.
Crimson Clover <i>(Trifolium incarnatum)</i>	L/A	20 - 30 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Sept 1 - Nov 1	X	X	Excellent reseeder. Does not tolerate poorly drain soils. Moderately tolerant of soil acidity.
Kura Clover <i>(Trifolium ambiguum)</i>	L/P	8 - 12 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	X	Apr 1 - May 15	Apr 1 - May 15 Aug 1 - Sept 1	Slow to establish. Very winter hardy.
Ladino Clover <i>(Trifolium repens)</i>	L/P	2 - 3 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 15 - Nov 1 Feb 1 - Mar 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Feb 15 - Apr 1	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Mar 1 - May 1	Widely adapted. Good companion with cool season grasses.
Red Clover <i>(Trifolium pratense)</i>	L/P	12 - 15 lbs.	1/4 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 15 - Nov 1 Feb 1 - Mar 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Feb 15 - Apr 1	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Mar 1 - May 1	High yielding. Good seedling vigor. Good companion with cool season grasses. Intolerant to close grazing.
Subterranean Clover <i>(Trifolium subterraneum)</i>	L/A	10 - 20 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Sept 15 - Nov 1	X	X	X	Moderately acid and shade tolerant.
White Clover <i>(Trifolium repens)</i>	L/P	2 - 3 lbs. (PLS)	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 15 - Nov 1 Feb 1 - Mar 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15 Feb 15 - Apr 1	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Mar 1 - May 1	Widely adapted. Drought and grazing tolerant. Good companion with grasses.
Crabgrass <i>(Digitaria sanguinalis)</i>	G/A	4 - 6 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	Mar 1 - Jun 1	Mar 15 - Jun 1	Apr 15 - Jun 1	Apr 15 - Jun 1	Must be managed for successful reseeding.
Dallisgrass <i>(Paspalum dilatatum)</i>	G/P	10 - 15 lbs. (PLS)	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Mar 1 - May 1	Mar 15 - May 1	X	X	Slow to establish. Susceptible to seed head ergot.
Eastern Gamagrass <i>(Tripsacum dactyloides)</i>	G/P	8 lbs. (PLS)	1/8 - 1/2 in.	X	May 1 - Jun 15	May 1 - Jun 15	May 15 - Jul 1	Difficult to establish. Best suited to sites with good soil moisture.
Fescue-Tall <i>(Festuca arundinacea)</i>	G/P	15 - 20 lbs.-D 20 - 25 lbs.-B	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - May 15	Widely used for pasture and hay. New non-toxic, persistent varieties now available.
Indiangrass <i>(Sorghastrum nutans)</i>	G/P	6 - 10 lbs. (PLS)	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	Apr 1 - May 15	Apr 1 - May 15	Apr 15 - Jun 1	Slow to establish. Grazing management required to maintain stand.
Kentucky Bluegrass <i>(Poa pratensis)</i>	G/P	10 - 15 lbs.	1/8 - 1/4 in.	X	X	X	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - May 15	Good grazing species but intolerant to heat and drought.
Lespedeza								
Korean <i>(Lespedeza stipulacea)</i>	L/A	25 - 35 lbs.	1/4 in.	X	Feb 15 - Apr 1	Mar 1 - Apr 15	Mar 15 - May 1	Tolerant of lower soil acidity and low soil phosphorus. Marginal yield.
Sericea <i>(Lespedeza cuneata)</i>	L/P	12 - 15 lbs.	1/4 in.	X	Mar 1 - May 15	Apr 15 - May 15	Apr 15 - Jun 1	Grows well on low fertility soils. Drought tolerant.
Striate (Kobe) <i>(Lespedeza striata)</i>	L/A	30 - 35 lbs.	1/4 in.	Feb 1 - Mar 15	Feb 15 - Apr 1	Mar 1 - Apr 15	Mar 15 - May 1	Tolerant of lower soil acidity and low soil phosphorus. Marginal yield.
Millet								
Browntop Millet <i>(Panicum ramosum)</i>	G/A	25 - 30 lbs.	1/8 - 1/2 in.	Apr 1 - Aug 15	May 1 - Aug 1	May 15 - Jul 15	Jun 1 - Jul 1	Fast emerging. Tolerant of soil acidity. Less productive than pearl millet.
Foxtail Millet <i>(Setaria italica)</i>	G/A	20 - 30 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Apr 1 - Aug 15	May 1 - Aug 1	May 15 - Jul 15	Jun 1 - Jul 1	Fast emerging and drought tolerant. Less productive than pearl millet. Not recommended for horses.
Pearl Millet <i>(Pennisetum glaucum)</i>	G/A	15 - 20 lbs.-D 25 - 30 lbs.-B	1/2 - 3/4 in.	Apr 1 - Aug 15	May 1 - Aug 1	May 15 - Jul 15	Jun 1 - Jul 1	Highly productive and widely adapted. More tolerant of soil acidity than sorghum. Safe for horses.
Orchardgrass <i>(Dactylis glomerata)</i>	G/P	15 - 20 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - May 15	High forage quality. Less persistent than Tall Fescue. Shade tolerant
Reed Canarygrass <i>(Phalaris arundinacea)</i>	G/P	5 - 8 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	X	Aug 15 - Oct 1	Apr 1 - Jun 1	Plant low alkaloid varieties. Slow to establish. Tolerates poorly drained soils.
Switchgrass <i>(Panicum virgatum)</i>	G/P	5 - 6 lbs. (PLS)	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Apr 15 - Jun 1	May 1 - Jun 15	May 15 - Jun 15	May 15 - Jul 1	High yielding. Slow to establish. Rotational graze to maintain quality and stand.
Timothy <i>(Phleum pratense)</i>	G/P	6 - 8 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	X	X	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - May 15	Popular hay crop. Less persistent than Tall Fescue.
Ryegrass								
Annual <i>(Lolium multiflorum)</i>	G/A	20 - 35 lbs.	1/8 - 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15 Mar 15 - Apr 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - Jun 1	Easy to establish. High quality and high yielding.
Perennial <i>(Lolium perenne)</i>	G/P	5 - 18 lbs.	1/8 - 1/2 in.	X	X	Mar 15 - Apr 15 Aug 15 - Oct 1	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - Jun 1	Easy to establish. Low tolerance of drought and heat. Less persistent than Tall Fescue and Orchardgrass.
Small Grains								
Barley <i>(Hordeum vulgare)</i>	G/A	90 - 120 lbs.	3/4 - 1 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1	Low tolerance of acid soil. Susceptible to disease.
Oats <i>(Avena sativa)</i>	G/A	90 - 120 lbs.	3/4 - 1 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15 Mar 15 - Apr 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1 Apr 1 - Jun 1	Highly palatable. Low cold tolerance. High fall yields.
Rye <i>(Secale cereale)</i>	G/A	90 - 120 lbs.	3/4 - 1 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 1 - Oct 1	Tolerant of cold and soil acidity.
Triticale <i>(Triticum secale)</i>	G/A	90 - 120 lbs.	3/4 - 1 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Wheat and Rye cross.
Wheat <i>(Triticum aestivum)</i>	G/A	90 - 120 lbs.	3/4 - 1 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Aug 15 - Oct 15	Drought tolerant. Forage varieties available.
Vetch								
Common <i>(Vicia sativa)</i>	L/A	30 - 40 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	X	X	Prefers well drained fertile soils. Tolerates soil acidity. Good companion with small grains.
Hairy <i>(Vicia villosa)</i>	L/A	20 - 30 lbs.	1/4 - 1/2 in.	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Sept 1 - Nov 1	Aug 15 - Oct 1	Aug 1 - Oct 1	Prefers well drained fertile soils. Tolerates soil acidity. Good companion with small grains.

When an "X" appears in the "Time to Plant" column, that forage is not generally used in that zone.

