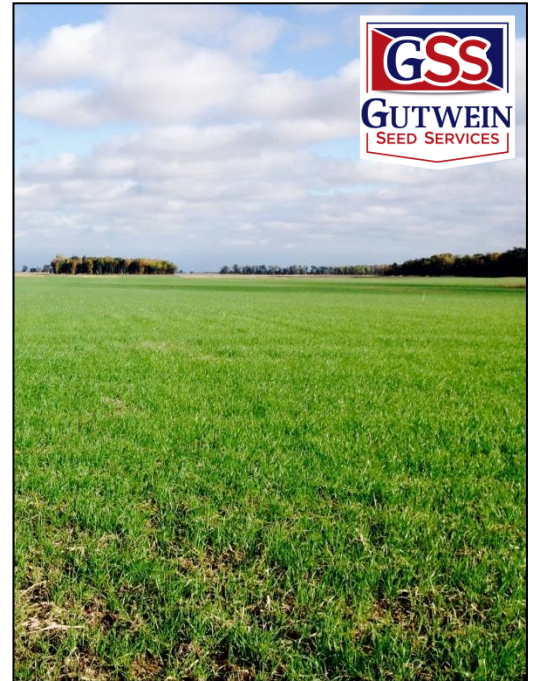


Annual Ryegrass



Benefits

- ◆ Erosion control
- ◆ Suppresses weeds
- ◆ Produces high quality forage
- ◆ Reduces soybean cyst nematode population
- ◆ Captures residual soil nitrogen
- ◆ Breaks up the natural hardpan and helps with compaction issues
- ◆ Increases the rooting depth of crops including corn and soybeans
- ◆ Increases water infiltration & soil moisture holding capacity
- ◆ Builds organic matter & improves soil structure
- ◆ Increase in corn and soybean yields, especially in dry years

Seeding Date, Methods & Rate

Drilled: 15-20# per acre

Broadcast: 20-25# per acre

Aerial: 25-30# per acre

The ideal time to plant Annual Ryegrass is from mid-August to the end of September. Annual Ryegrass will germinate in 7-10 days with sufficient soil moisture. Annual Ryegrass needs 60 days of growth before a hard killing frost. A no-till drill is the preferred seeding method as it provides optimal seed-to-soil contact. It should be planted about 1/4-1/2 inch deep. 190,300 seeds per pound. Apply 30#/acre of Nitrogen to stimulate fall growth.

Burndown

Annual ryegrass has a reputation of being hard to kill, but experience shows that full rates of glyphosate on days where the air temperature is over 50 degrees for several days give very reliable control. Kill 14 days before planting corn or when the cover crop reaches 6-8 inches tall.

Expectations

Annual ryegrass, an annual winter-hardy cover crop, is a vigorous high tonnage crop that is quickly becoming one of the most popular choices for cover crop usage. Its ease of establishment and extensive fibrous root system make it probably the best nutrient scavenger and also a surprisingly good candidate to loosen hard pans. The growth of annual ryegrass can be deceiving because plants only 6" tall may have roots that go down 4 feet or more. In severe winters, we have noticed winterkill but still plants have often sunk roots nearly 2 feet before winter stops the growth. Using annual ryegrass as a cover crop requires management. It must be seeded on a timely basis and at the proper rates and it must be controlled on time so that it does not compete with corn or soybeans as a weed. By using the correct seeding date and methods in the fall and then effectively killing the ryegrass the following spring, growers can reap both economic and environmental benefits from this cover crop. Annual ryegrass exhibits no detected allelopathy effects.

Contact Barbara Barten at Gutwein Seed Services for a Quote: 219-866-0555 or barb@gss4ag.com