

FORAGE & FIELD CROP SEEDING GUIDE FOR TENNESSEE

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Species/ description	seeding rate (lb/acre)	depth (inches)	Seeding date		comments
			Spring	Fall	
alfalfa <i>cool-season perennial</i>	15-20	¼ - ½	Mar 1-May 15	Aug 15-Sept 15	Seeding date for no-till spring plantings can be extended until mid-May. Fall seedings should be made early to decrease risk of Sclerotinia. Do not no-till plant in fall. Use pre-inoculated seed or inoculate seed prior to planting.
alsike clover <i>cool-season perennial</i>	6-8	¼ - ½	Feb 15-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Tolerant of poorly drained conditions. Acts as annual in Tennessee.
American jointvetch <i>warm-season annual</i>	20	¼	Apr 15-July 1	----	Tolerant of poorly drained conditions. Excellent forage and cover for wildlife.
arrowleaf clover <i>cool-season annual</i>	6-10	¼ - ½	----	Aug 15-Oct 1	Winterkill is an issue for most of state. Inoculate seed prior to planting.
Austrian winter peas <i>cool-season annual</i>	50	1-2	----	Aug 15-Oct 1	Good fall/winter cover crop and forage for wildlife.
barley <i>cool-season annual</i>	100-150 (2-3 bu)	1-2	----	Sept 1-Nov 1	
bermudagrass <i>warm-season perennial</i>	Sprigged: 25-30 cu ft	1-3	Apr 15-July 1	----	Vegetatively propagated varieties can be planted earlier than seeded varieties. Select varieties with cold tolerance.
	Seeded: 4-6	¼	May 1-July 1		
bluestem, big <i>warm-season perennial</i>	8-10 PLS*	¼ - ½	Apr 15-June 1	----	Fluffy seed requires special drill for seeding. Weed control during first year is critical due to slow seedling growth. Seeding depth is critical.
bluestem, little <i>warm-season perennial</i>	8-10 PLS*	¼	Apr 15-June 1	----	Fluffy seed. Weed control during first year is critical due to slow seedling growth. Seeding depth is critical.
birdsfoot trefoil <i>cool-season perennial</i>	6-10	¼ - ½	Feb 15-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Usually has disease problems in Tennessee conditions.
bromegrass, smooth <i>cool-season perennial</i>	15-20	¼ - ½	Feb 15-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Poor drought and heat tolerance limits use in Tennessee. Fall plantings superior to spring.
buckwheat <i>warm-season annual</i>	35-50	1-2	May 1-Aug 1	----	Used little for livestock forage. Good forage and seed production for wildlife.
chicory <i>cool-season perennial</i>	10	¼ - ½	Mar 1-May 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Very drought-tolerant. Excellent forage for wildlife.
corn <i>warm-season annual</i>	16,000-28,000 PPA	1-2	Apr 1-June 1	----	
cotton	12-15 lbs acid- delinted	1	Apr 20 - May 10		
cowpeas <i>warm-season annual</i>	50-100	1-3	April 15-July 1	----	Used primarily for wildlife.
crabgrass <i>warm-season annual</i>	3-5 lb PLS	¼ - ½	May 1-July 1	----	Good forage quality. Can manage to allow reseeding.
crimson clover <i>cool-season annual</i>	20 - 25	¼ - ½	----	Aug 15-Oct 1	Inoculate seed. Used for forage and cover crop. Continuous use can result in increased crown rot.
dallisgrass <i>warm-season perennial</i>	20-30	¼ - ½	Mar 15-Apr 15	----	Poor seed viability.
eastern gamagrass <i>warm-season perennial</i>	10 PLS*	½ - 1	Apr 15-June 1	----	Bunch grass. Large seed planted similar to corn. Seed dormancy can be a concern.

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indiangrass <i>warm-season perennial</i>	8-10 PLS*	¼ - ½	Apr 15-June 1	----	Native grass with fluffy seed requires drill with agitators and picker wheels. Weed control during first year is critical due to slow seedling growth. Seeding depth is critical.
lablab (hyacinth bean) <i>warm-season annual</i>	40	½ - 1½	Apr 15-July 1	----	Vining legume producing most growth from mid- to late summer. Excellent forage for deer.
kentucky bluegrass <i>cool-season perennial</i>	10	¼	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Poor seedling vigor. Poor drought tolerance.
lespedeza, annual <i>warm-season annual</i>	Kobe: 40 Korean: 25	¼	Feb 15-Apr 15	----	Kobe best for mixture w/ tall fescue.
lespedeza, sericea <i>warm-season perennial</i>	30	¼	Apr 1-June 1	----	Better hay crop than grazing. Tannins limit palatability for grazing.
millet, browntop <i>warm-season annual</i>	25-40	½ - ¾	May 1-June 15	----	Not as high-yielding as pearl millet. Used more for wildlife. Expect 1 cutting.
millet, foxtail (German) <i>warm-season annual</i>	20	½ - ¾	May 1-June 15	----	Emergency hay crop. Wildlife use. Usually 1 cutting.
millet, pearl <i>warm-season annual</i>	10-15 drilled 20 broadcast	½ - ¾	May 1-June 15	----	Good choice as emergency hay crop.
oats <i>cool-season annual</i>	100-150	1-2	Feb 20-Apr-1	Sept 1-Oct 1	Limited cold tolerance. Best companion crop of small grains due to limited competition with desired crop.
orchardgrass <i>cool-season perennial</i>	10-15 3-5 in alfalfa	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Good hay crop. Fall seeding is best.
popcorn <i>warm-season annual</i>	3-7 lb	1	Apr 1-June 1	----	
rape <i>cool-season annual</i>	6-8	¼ - ½	Feb-Mar	Sept 1-Oct 1	Plantings for wildlife should occur in fall. Forage attractive after several frosts.
red clover <i>cool-season biennial</i>	10	¼ - ½	Feb 15-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Good seedling vigor. More upright than white clover. Good clover for mixtures with cool-season grasses.
reed canarygrass <i>cool-season perennial</i>	10	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Best choice for wet conditions. Alkaloids make it less desirable for forage.
rye <i>cool-season annual</i>	100-150 (2-3 bu)	1-2	----	Aug 15-Oct 1	Earliest of all small grains. Good species to mix with annual ryegrass for fall/winter/spring grazing.
ryegrass, annual <i>cool-season annual</i>	20-30	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 15	High-quality winter annual.
ryegrass, perennial <i>cool-season perennial</i>	20-30	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 15	Does not persist well. Practically annual in Tennessee.
sideoats grama <i>warm-season perennial</i>	8-10	¼ - ½	Apr 15-June 1	----	Short native grass. Limited forage use. More for wildlife.
sorghum, grain <i>warm-season annual</i>	6-8	1½	May 1-June 15	----	Good silage crop for late planting.
sorghum, sweet <i>warm-season annual</i>	4-6	1 ½	May 1-June 15	----	
soybeans <i>warm-season annual</i>	75-150	1-2	May 1-June 15	----	Choose forage type or late maturity group for hay. Cut at 50 percent bloom.
sudangrass and hybrids <i>warm-season annual</i>	45 broadcast 30 drilled	½ - 2	Apr 20-June 15	----	High-yielding summer annuals. Grazing or hay use.
sweetclover <i>cool-season biennial</i>	20	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	

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switchgrass <i>warm-season perennial</i>	5-8 PLS*	¼ - ½	Apr 15-May 30	----	Forage and biomass use. Weed control during first year critical due to slow seedling growth. Seeding depth is critical.
tall fescue <i>cool-season perennial</i>	15	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Endophyte-infected is most persistent cool-season grass available. Mix w/ red and white clover.
teff grass <i>warm-season annual</i>	6-8	¼	May 1-June 15	----	Smaller stems than other warm-season annuals. Good hay crop. Small seed size makes seeding depth critical.
turnips <i>cool-season annual</i>	3-6	¼	Apr 1-June 1	Aug15- Oct 1	Early-fall grazing crop. For wildlife, most palatable after frost.
timothy <i>cool-season perennial</i>	8	¼ - ½	Feb 20-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Poor drought tolerance. Stand life of 1-2 years.
vetch, hairy <i>cool-season annual</i>	30	1-2	----	Aug 15-Oct 15	Mostly used as cover crop
wheat <i>cool-season annual</i>	100-150 (2-3 bu)	1-2	----	Aug 15-Nov 1	Seed in Sept. only if fall grazing is expected. Seed in Oct. for grain/spring grazing.
white clover (ladino or intermediate types) <i>cool-season perennial</i>	2	¼	Feb 15-Apr 1	Aug 15-Oct 1	Good for mix with cool-season perennial grasses. Ladino-types are taller than intermediates. Intermediates are more persistent.

PLS = % pure live seed = % GERMINATION x % PURITY. Both of these are found on seed tag.

Be sure to purchase pre-inoculated legume seed, or inoculate raw seed prior to planting.



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