

## Summer Cover Crop Species Adapted to North-Central West Texas and Southwestern Oklahoma

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# Plant Materials Technical Note

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### Background:

Protecting our soils has been a goal of the NRCS for many years, but recently, improving the overall health of soils has become a central component of that goal. Cover crops have long been used in combination with cash crops to prevent soil erosion from wind and water. Years of research has shown that cover crops can also improve the health and productivity of cultivated soils. Summer and winter cover cropping provides many advantages when implemented into row crop farming and ranching operations. Some of these advantages include:

- Added organic matter
- Reduce soil erosion
- Provide nitrogen
- Provide weed control
- Reduce disease inoculums (Roozeboom, 2013)
- Improve soil structure (aggregation, infiltration, available water capacity)
- Manage nutrients
- Furnish moisture conserving mulch and lower soil temperature
- Provide habitat for beneficial organisms (Clark, 2007)

Producers must also understand how to manage a cover crop to reap their full benefits. In addition to many of the advantages of cover cropping, there are also potential drawbacks such as:

- Cover crop residue may delay soil warming and drying in the spring, resulting in delayed planting of the cash crop.
- Heavy cover crop residue may interfere with planting operations
- Nitrogen may become tied up and not readily available to cash crop
- Some cover crop species may become weeds
- Disease inoculums may increase (Roozeboom, 2013)
- Planting dates between cash crop harvest and cover crop establishment may be difficult to manage

Sullivan (2003) states that, “cover crops could be considered the backbone of any annual cropping system that seeks to be sustainable”. Taking advantage of cover crops may provide producers the opportunity to continue to produce food and fiber for a growing population while reducing input costs and maximizing precipitation while protecting the soil resources.

These benefits are only achieved if the selected cover crop species are adapted to the environmental conditions in the areas where they are used (Bodner et al., 2009). Growing conditions differ from one region to another and plant species will not perform the same under every environmental condition. For instance, species that require large amounts of water will not thrive in arid, dry regions. A basic understanding of the area's growing condition is critical when choosing cover crops.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this technical note is to provide information on commercially available cover crop species evaluated in replicated plots at USDA-NRCS James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center, Knox City, Texas for soil health improvement in North central Texas and southwestern Oklahoma. Plant growth attributes, compatibility with other cover species, and cultural information are provided for each cover crop to assist producers and NRCS field office personnel with making decisions on which cover crop species are suitable to meet the objective of the cover crop planting (e.g. soil structure improvement, soil fertility, nutrient management, and weed suppression). Compatibility information was taken from “A Comprehensive Guide to Cover Crop Species Used in

the Northeast United States” accessed on-line at:  
<http://www.plantmaterials.nrcs.usda.gov/pub/nypmcpu10645.pdf>.

The technical note covers plant growth attributes (e.g. days of 75% emergence, percent ground cover and days to 75% emergence and biomass yield obtained from research plots established at the James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center), cultural specifications (e.g. planting depth and rate, and seeds per pounds) and other specie attributes, and photographs of each cover crop species at different growth stages to help producers and conservationists with plant identification.

## Grasses

**Common Name:** Forage Sorghum

**Scientific Name:** *Sorghum bicolor*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 20-35 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 16,000

**Plant Height:** 40-48 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Excellent

**Biomass Potential:** 12,000-15,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** prevents soil erosion, quick forage for grazing, improve soil structure, scavenge nutrients, adds organic matter, and suppresses weeds

**Mix with:** legumes, other grasses



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**Common Name:** Grain Sorghum

**Scientific Name:** *Sorghum bicolor*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 5-7 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 16,000

**Plant Height:** 24-34 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Excellent

**Biomass Potential:** 12,000-15,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil erosion prevention, weed suppression, scavenges nutrients, adds organic matter, grazing

**Mix with:** legumes, other grasses



**Common Name:** Sorghum Sudangrass

**Scientific Name:** *Sorghum bicolor* × *S. bicolor* var. *sudanense*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1½ inches

**Planting Rate:** 20-40 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 18,000-22,000

**Plant Height:** 35-65 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Excellent

**Biomass Potential:** 16,000-18,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil builder, weed suppression, prevent erosion, nutrient scavenger, grazing

**Mix with:** other grasses, legumes



**Common Name:** Pearl Millet

**Scientific Name:** *Pennisetum glaucum*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 15-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 82,000

**Plant Height:** 30-40 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Good

**Biomass Potential:** 12,000-13,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** rapid growth gives quick cover and good weed suppression. Can also be used for erosion control

**Mix with:** clover, pea, vetch, brassicas, or small grains



**Common Name:** Browntop Millet  
**Scientific Name:** *Urochloa ramosum*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 10-12 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 145,000

**Plant Height:** 30-32 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Very Good

**Biomass Potential:** 6,000-8,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** good organic matter and weed suppression, forage, prevent erosion

**Mix with:** legumes, other small grains



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**Common Name:** Proso Millet

**Scientific Name:** *Panicum miliaceum*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 12-15 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 82,000

**Plant Height:** 36-38 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Good

**Biomass Potential:** 6,000-8,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** adds organic matter, nutrient scavenger, and weed suppression, can be used to prevent erosion

**Mix with:** legumes, other small grains



**Common Name:** Foxtail Millet  
**Scientific Name:** *Setaria italica*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 8-12 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 213,000

**Plant Height:** 32-34 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-6,000lb/acre

**Facts:** provides excellent organic matter and weed suppression, forage, prevent erosion

**Mix with:** small grains and legumes



**Common Name:** Japanese Millet

**Scientific Name:** *Echinochloa frumentacea*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 10-12 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 143,000

**Plant Height:** 28-30 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Good

**Biomass Potential:** 5,000-6,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** adds organic matter and provides weed suppression, can be used for forage and also used to prevent erosion

**Mix with:** legumes and other small grains



**Common Name:** Corn

**Scientific Name:** *Zea mays*

**Planting Depth:** 1 to 1½ inch

**Planting Rate:** 6-10 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 2,500

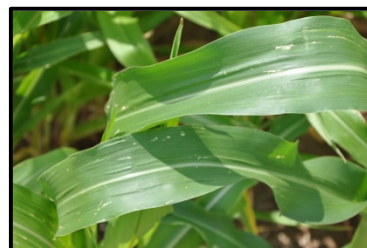
**Plant Height:** 24-26 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Good

**Biomass Potential:** 6,000-8,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** rapid growth provides excellent organic matter and weed suppression, forage, prevent erosion, nutrient scavenger

**Mix with:** legumes or other small grains



**Common Name:** Bengal Rice

**Scientific Name:** *Oryza sativa*

**Planting Depth:** 1 to 1½ inch

**Planting Rate:** 20-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 16,500

**Plant Height:** 18-20 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Poor

**Biomass Potential:** 2,000-3,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** organic matter, nutrient scavenger, weed suppression

**Mix with:** legumes or other small grains



## Legumes

**Common Name:** 'Red Ripper' Cowpea  
**Scientific Name:** *Vigna unguiculata*  
**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1½ inches  
**Planting Rate:** 25-35 lb/acre  
**Seed per Pound:** 16,000  
**Plant Height:** 16-20 inches  
**Residue Persistence:** Very Good  
**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-6,000 lb/acre  
**Facts:** erosion control, weed suppression, nitrogen source, and soil builder  
**Mix with:** small grains, millets, corn, and sorghum



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**Common Name:** 'Iron and Clay' Cowpea  
**Scientific Name:** *Vigna sinensis*  
**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch  
**Planting Rate:** 20-40 lb/acre  
**Seed per Pound:** 16,000  
**Plant Height:** 26-28 inches  
**Residue Persistence:** Very Good  
**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-6,000 lb/acre  
**Facts:** erosion control, nitrogen source, soil builder and weed suppression  
**Mix with:** small grains, millets, corn, sorghum, and other legumes



**Common Name:** 'California' Black-eyed Cowpea

**Scientific Name:** *Vigna* spp.

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 20-40 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 12,000

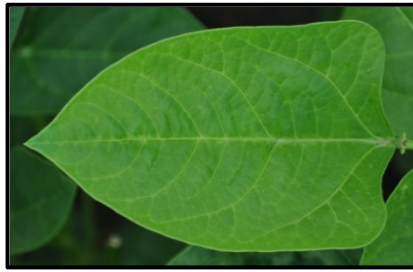
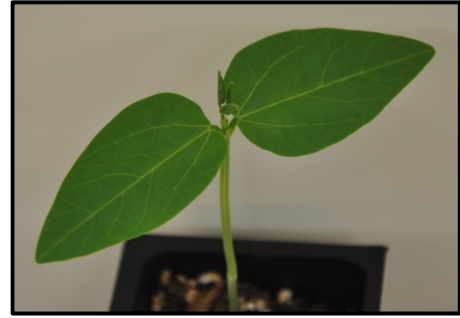
**Plant Height:** 22-26 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Good

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-5,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** nitrogen source, weed suppression, erosion prevention, and soil builder

**Mix with:** corn, sorghum, small grains, millets, and other legumes



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**Common Name:** Guar

**Scientific Name:** *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 12-15 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 16,000

**Plant Height:** 16-20 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-6,000

**Facts:** erosion prevention, weed suppression, soil builder, and nitrogen source

**Mix with:** other legumes, small grains, grasses



**Common Name:** Lablab Bean

**Scientific Name:** *Lablab purpureus*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 10-15 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 1,800

**Plant Height:** 18-22 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Very Good

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-5,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** weed suppression, erosion control, nitrogen source, and soil builder

**Mix with:** small grains, other legumes, millets



**Common Name:** Mung Bean

**Scientific Name:** *Vigna radiata*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 15-20 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 9,000

**Plant Height:** 20-24 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Very Good

**Biomass Potential:** 5,000-6,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** weed suppression, nitrogen source, soil builder, erosion control

**Mix with:** small grains and other legumes



**Common Name:** Partridge Pea

**Scientific Name:** *Chamaecrista fasciculata*

**Planting Depth:** ¼ to ¾ inch

**Planting Rate:** 13.4 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 65,000

**Plant Height:** 24-28 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Poor

**Biomass Potential:** 6,000-7,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** nitrogen source, weed suppression, soil builder, erosion prevention

**Mix with:** grasses, brassicas, and other legumes



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**Common Name:** Catjang Pea

**Scientific Name:** *Vigna* spp.

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 20-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 8,000

**Plant Height:** 22-26 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-5,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil builder, erosion prevention, nitrogen source, weed suppression

**Mix with:** grasses, brassicas, other legumes



**Common Name:** Peanut

**Scientific Name:** *Arachis hypogaea*

**Planting Depth:** 1 to 1½ inches

**Planting Rate:** 35 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 800

**Plant Height:** 10-12 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Poor

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-6,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** weed suppression, soil builder, erosion prevention, nitrogen source

**Mix with:** Grasses, small grains, other legumes



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**Common Name:** Soybean

**Scientific Name:** *Glycine max*

**Planting Depth:** 1 to 1½ inch

**Planting Rate:** 20-40 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 4,500

**Plant Height:** 18-20 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-5,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil erosion prevention, weed suppression, nitrogen source, soil builder

**Mix with:** other legumes, grasses



**Common Name:** Sunn Hemp

**Scientific Name:** *Crotalaria juncea*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inches

**Planting Rate:** 15 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 9,600

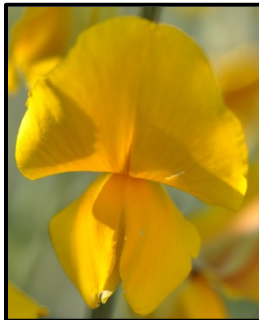
**Plant Height:** 26-34 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 5,000-7,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** weed suppression, erosion prevention, soil builder, nitrogen source

**Mix with:** small grains, brassicas, other legumes



## Brassicas

**Common Name:** Radish

**Scientific Name:** *Raphanus sativus*

**Planting Depth:** ¼ to ½ inch

**Planting Rate:** 8 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 23,819

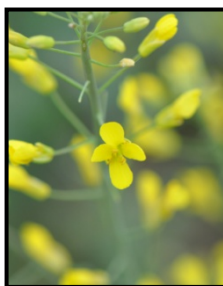
**Plant Height:** 14-16 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 3,000-4,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** prevent erosion, weed suppression, alleviates soil compaction

**Mix with:** other brassicas, mustards, small grains, or crimson clover



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**Common Name:** Rape

**Scientific Name:** *Brassica napus*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to ¾ inch

**Planting Rate:** 5 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 134,500

**Plant Height:** 26-28 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Good

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-5,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** weed suppression, biomass decomposes quickly

**Mix with:** small grains, other brassicas, mustards, crimson clover



**Common Name:** Forage Collards

**Scientific Name:** *Brassica oleracea*

**Planting Depth:** ¼ to ½

**Planting Rate:** 8 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 194,125

**Plant Height:** 30-32 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair-Good

**Biomass Potential:** 3,000-4,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** prevents erosion, suppress weeds, alleviate soil compaction, scavenge nutrients

**Mix with:** mustard, other brassicas, small grains, or crimson clover



## Forbs

**Common Name:** Buckwheat

**Scientific Name:** *Fagopyrum esculentum*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 20-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 20,400

**Plant Height:** 20-24 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Poor

**Biomass Potential:** 2,000-3,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** Smother crop, weed suppression, bee pasture, scavenge nutrients

**Mix with:** legumes and other forbs



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**Common Name:** Kenaf

**Scientific Name:** *Hibiscus cannabinus*

**Planting Depth:** 1-2 inches

**Planting Rate:** 20-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 16,000

**Plant Height:** 34-36 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 4,000-5,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil builder, suppress weeds, and scavenge nutrients

**Mix with:** grasses, legumes, and brassicas



**Common Name:** Sesame

**Scientific Name:** *Sesamum indicum*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to ¾ inch

**Planting Rate:** 3-5 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 164,000

**Plant Height:** 48-50 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 5,000-6,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil builder, weed suppression, scavenge nutrients

**Mix with:** grasses, legumes, and brassicas



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**Common Name:** Sesbania

**Scientific Name:** *Sesbania exaltata*

**Planting Depth:** ½ to ¾ inch

**Planting Rate:** 25-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 48,000

**Plant Height:** 50-52 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 5,000-6,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil builder, suppress weeds, and scavenge nutrients

**Mix with:** grasses, legumes and brassicas



**Common Name:** Sunflower

**Scientific Name:** *Helianthus* spp.

**Planting Depth:** ½ to 1 inch

**Planting Rate:** 25-30 lb/acre

**Seed per Pound:** 16,000

**Plant Height:** 24-26 inches

**Residue Persistence:** Fair

**Biomass Potential:** 3,000-4,000 lb/acre

**Facts:** soil builder, weed suppression, scavenge nutrients

**Mix with:** grasses, legumes, and brassicas



## Plant Growth Attributes for Cover Crop Adaptability at Knox City PMC

Plots were drilled on June 12, 2013 on 8 inch spacing and harvested 100 days after planting

Test was replicated 4 times

| Common Name                                | % Emergence** |    |    |     | % Cover** |     |     | Height (in)** |    |    | Yield*  |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|----|----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|---------------|----|----|---------|
|                                            | 5             | 7  | 11 | 14  | 30        | 60  | 90  | 30            | 60 | 90 |         |
| Buckwheat                                  | 81            | 90 | 91 | 99  | 39        | 69  | 63  | 8             | 22 | 21 | 2,596   |
| 'Red Riper' Cowpeas                        | 60            | 75 | 98 | 100 | 56        | 100 | 100 | 9             | 17 | 18 | 5,181   |
| 'Iron and Clay' Cowpeas                    | 68            | 73 | 85 | 100 | 49        | 100 | 100 | 11            | 23 | 26 | 5,765   |
| 'California' Black-eyed Cowpeas            | 34            | 43 | 48 | 71  | 29        | 90  | 90  | 8             | 19 | 20 | 4,968   |
| Impact Forage Collards                     | 23            | 41 | 53 | 75  | 51        | 76  | 60  | 9             | 8  | 7  | 662     |
| BMR 84 Grazing Corn                        | 61            | 74 | 83 | 96  | 60        | 96  | 96  | 16            | 26 | 25 | *11,607 |
| Guar                                       | 61            | 71 | 78 | 99  | 25        | 84  | 84  | 4             | 12 | 18 | 5,083   |
| HS II Hybrid Forage Sorghum                | 63            | 71 | 83 | 100 | 60        | 100 | 100 | 17            | 38 | 42 | *20,552 |
| Cow Lick Hybrid Forage Sorghum             | 60            | 69 | 76 | 100 | 60        | 100 | 100 | 22            | 34 | 44 | *16,239 |
| Surpass BMR Hybrid Forage Sorghum          | 76            | 80 | 91 | 100 | 66        | 100 | 100 | 20            | 37 | 42 | *18,694 |
| WAC-610 Hybrid Grain Sorghum               | 73            | 81 | 91 | 100 | 71        | 100 | 100 | 20            | 26 | 26 | *18,398 |
| 9200Y-White Hybrid Grain Sorghum           | 20            | 31 | 41 | 80  | 53        | 100 | 100 | 19            | 32 | 32 | 14,035  |
| W-615 Hybrid Grain Sorghum                 | 64            | 75 | 93 | 100 | 53        | 100 | 100 | 20            | 27 | 28 | *18,649 |
| ML 401 BMR Hybrid Pearl Millet             | 38            | 50 | 55 | 85  | 68        | 94  | 96  | 20            | 26 | 34 | 10,182  |
| Kenaf                                      | 85            | 88 | 95 | 99  | 65        | 98  | 98  | 11            | 26 | 33 | 5,937   |
| 'Rio Verde' Lab Lab Bean                   | 61            | 73 | 85 | 99  | 19        | 89  | 89  | 4             | 11 | 20 | 4,001   |
| 'Ronaai' Lab Lab Bean                      | 49            | 58 | 71 | 95  | 36        | 82  | 91  | 4             | 11 | 18 | 4,270   |
| Kobe Lespedeza                             | 0             | 0  | 5  | 14  | 6         | 15  | 20  | 2             | 7  | 11 | 3,043   |
| Browntop Millet                            | 21            | 36 | 45 | 73  | 61        | 100 | 100 | 10            | 30 | 30 | 6,886   |
| 'Dove' Proso Millet                        | 5             | 5  | 10 | 21  | 18        | 80  | 88  | 14            | 39 | 37 | 8,039   |
| German Foxtail Millet                      | 14            | 20 | 21 | 50  | 29        | 81  | 69  | 13            | 32 | 34 | 5,340   |
| Japanese Millet                            | 9             | 26 | 31 | 69  | 35        | 85  | 88  | 8             | 29 | 30 | 6,255   |
| Hybrid Pearl Millet                        | 43            | 50 | 55 | 85  | 53        | 90  | 90  | 18            | 30 | 31 | *14,906 |
| Mung bean                                  | 70            | 80 | 89 | 100 | 60        | 99  | 99  | 7             | 19 | 21 | 6,293   |
| 'Comanche' Partridge Pea                   | 10            | 18 | 30 | 63  | 40        | 100 | 100 | 6             | 22 | 27 | 8,072   |
| Catjang Pea                                | 74            | 81 | 95 | 100 | 60        | 99  | 99  | 7             | 18 | 24 | 3,995   |
| 'Tamrun OL02' Peanut                       | 0             | 14 | 33 | 65  | 26        | 75  | 88  | 4             | 7  | 10 | 4,568   |
| Bengal Rice                                | 0             | 33 | 48 | 85  | 11        | 68  | 65  | 8             | 18 | 19 | 2,808   |
| Sesame                                     | 30            | 44 | 55 | 91  | 61        | 89  | 89  | 8             | 21 | 34 | 8,777   |
| Sesbania                                   | 21            | 43 | 59 | 88  | 46        | 69  | 75  | 9             | 34 | 51 | 5,987   |
| Egyptian Wheat Sorghum                     | 54            | 61 | 74 | 100 | 68        | 100 | 100 | 22            | 43 | 54 | 15,734  |
| Early Sumac Sorghum                        | 9             | 26 | 38 | 90  | 54        | 100 | 100 | 20            | 48 | 52 | 15,041  |
| Bird Magnet Sorghum                        | 71            | 80 | 95 | 100 | 61        | 100 | 100 | 18            | 31 | 29 | *21,124 |
| Wild Game Food Sorghum                     | 29            | 43 | 48 | 96  | 64        | 100 | 100 | 18            | 28 | 29 | 13,195  |
| Sorghum Aluum                              | 16            | 39 | 43 | 91  | 59        | 100 | 100 | 21            | 60 | 61 | 11,789  |
| Zacate Sorghum Sudangrass Hybrid           | 46            | 61 | 78 | 100 | 64        | 100 | 100 | 25            | 50 | 56 | 17,611  |
| Maxi Gain BMR-6 Sorghum Sudangrass Hybrid  | 84            | 91 | 94 | 100 | 60        | 100 | 100 | 23            | 36 | 38 | 16,526  |
| Super Graze Ultra Sorgho Sudangrass Hybrid | 73            | 81 | 96 | 100 | 70        | 100 | 100 | 20            | 42 | 47 | 18,673  |
| Sugar Queen Sorgho Sudangrass Hybrid       | 53            | 70 | 86 | 99  | 70        | 100 | 100 | 21            | 49 | 50 | *20,131 |
| 'Piper' Sudan Grass                        | 45            | 60 | 88 | 10  | 54        | 100 | 100 | 24            | 58 | 59 | 17,510  |
| 'Laredo' Soybeans                          | 41            | 50 | 69 | 96  | 30        | 79  | 84  | 4             | 14 | 19 | 4,351   |
| Peredovik Type Sunflower                   | 64            | 74 | 79 | 88  | 34        | 66  | 65  | 4             | 23 | 25 | 4,284   |
| 'Tropic Sun' Sunn Hemp                     | 68            | 79 | 95 | 100 | 40        | 83  | 85  | 5             | 18 | 29 | 5,164   |

\*Produced seed before harvest, resulting in increased biomass yields compared to other sources

\*\* % Emergence and Cover and Plant Height is shown in days from planting

The one year data represented in this technical note were collected at the James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center near Knox City, TX. This information is to be used in general comparisons between species and sites and may not reflect actual results at all locations in Texas.

## **References**

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9419, by fax at (202) 690-7442, or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

#### **Persons with Disabilities**

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

#### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish, or call the [State Information/Hotline Numbers](#).

#### **All Other Inquiries**

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the [USDA Agencies and Offices](#).