

Forage Planting Guide for North Carolina

(Updated July 2011)

Crop	Seeding Rate (lb./acre) B:broadcast D:drill(4-to 9" row) R:row (30+inches) PLS:pure live seeds	Plant Depth Optimum (inches)	Mountains (above 2500 ft. elevation) ¹ See footnote for below 2500 ft.		Piedmont and Tidewater ²		Coastal Plain ²	
			Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates
Alfalfa	B:20-25; D:15-20	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 1 -Apr 7	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-Apr 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Mar 1 -Mar 31	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Alfalfa (sod seeded into grass) ⁴	D: 15-20	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Sep 15-Oct 1 ³	Jul 25-Oct 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 Oct 10-Oct 20 ³	Aug 25-Oct 20	Sep 1-Sep 30 Oct 10-Oct 20 ³	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Bahiagrass	B:15-25;D:10-20	¼ - ½	Not adapted		Not well adapted		Feb 15-Mar 15	Feb 1-Mar 31
Barley	B:140; D:100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Not well adapted	
Bermudagrass (Hybrid) Sprigs: 1 bu. = 1.25 ft. ³	B:25-40; R:5-15 bushels	1 - 3	Not well adapted		Mar 1-Mar 31	Feb 15-May 1 or thru Jul if irrigated	Mar 1-Mar 31	Feb 15-Apr 15 or thru Jul if irrigated
Bermudagrass, Seeds (Common & Cultivars)	B:6-8; D:5-7	¼ - ½	Not well adapted		Apr 15-May 15	Apr 1-Jun 15	Apr 1-May 15	Mar 15-Jun 7
Big Bluestem	B:10-12 PLS D:8-10 PLS	½ - ¾	May 25-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Birdsfoot Trefoil	B:8-10; D:6-8	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 30	Not well adapted; but see Ladino Clover if choose to plant		Not well adapted	
Bluegrass, Ky	B:10-15; D:8-12	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 25	Not well adapted		Not well adapted	
Caucasian Bluestem	B:4 PLS; D:2 PLS	¼ - ½	May 25-Jun 15	May 7-Jun 30	May 7-May 20	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 15-Jun 30
Crabgrass	B:8-10; D: 5-7	¼ - ½	May 15-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Crimson Clover	B:20-25; D:15-20	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 20	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 30
Crimson Clover; Mixed with ryegrass or smallgrain	B:20; D:15 reduce smallgrain by 30%	¼ - ½	Same as Crimson clover		Same as Crimson clover		Same as Crimson clover	
Crownvetch (For erosion control)	B:15-20; D:10-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 Mar 1-Mar 30	Aug 15-Oct 25 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Not well adapted	
Dallisgrass	B:20-30; D:15-20	¼ - ½	Not adapted		Not well adapted		Mar 1-Mar 30	Feb 15-Apr 15
Eastern Gamagrass	B: Do not broadcast D:10-15 PLS;	¾ - 1.5	May 15-Jun 15 Nov-Feb	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1 Nov-Jan	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15 Nov-Jan	Apr 10-Jun 30
Flaccidgrass	D:2-4; Sprig: 3/ft in 18"rows Tillers: 2-4/ft	¼ - ½ 2 - 3 Root cover	Jun 1-Jun 15 Mar 1-Apr 7 May 15-Jun 15	May 15-Jul 1 Feb 15-Apr 15 May 1-Jul 15	May 15- Jul 7 Feb 20-Mar 20 Apr 25-Jun 1	Apr 15-Jul 1 Feb 1-Mar 30 Apr 15-Jul 15	May 7-Jun 1 Feb 15-Mar 15 Apr 25-May 20	Apr 15-Jun 15 Feb 1-Mar 30 Apr 15-Jul 10
Indiangrass	B:10-12 PLS; D:8-10 PLS	½ - ¾	May 15-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Ladino (For sod seeding into grass)	B:3-5; D:3-5	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 ³ Aug 1 -Sep 1 ³ Mar 1 -Mar 20	Aug 1 -Sep 15 Mar 1 -May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 ³ Oct 7-Oct 15 ³ Feb 20-Mar 10	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20	Sep 1 -Sep 30 ³ Oct 7-Oct 15 ³ Feb 15-Feb 28	Sep 1 -Oct 31 Feb 10-Mar 15
Ladino or White Clover	B:3-5; D:3-5	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Mar 1 -Mar 31	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20
Lespedeza, Kobe	B:30-40; D:20-25	¼ - ½	Not well adapted		Feb 10-Feb 28	Feb 1 -Mar 30	Feb 1 -Feb 20	Feb 1-Mar 20
Lespedeza, Korean	B:20-30; D: 15-20	¼ - ½	Mar 15-Mar 31	Mar 1-Apr 15	Feb 10-Feb 28	Feb 1 -Mar 30	Not well adapted	
Millet, German, Foxtail, Japanese	D:10-15; R:5-7	½ - 1 ½	May 15-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Millet, Pearl (Cattail) hybrid or dwarf	B:20-25; D:15-20; R:6-10	½ - 1 ½	May 15-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Oats	B:130; D:100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Sep 30	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1-Nov 15
Orchardgrass	B:12-15; D:8-12	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 31	Not well adapted	
Orchardgrass + Alfalfa	B:5 + 20; D:3 + 15	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15	Not well adapted	
Orchardgrass + Ladino Clover	B:12 + 4; D:9 + 3	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Not well adapted	
Orchardgrass + Red Clover	B:12 + 4; D:8 + 3	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Not adapted	

Crop	Seeding Rate (lb./acre) B:broadcast D:drill(4-to 9" row) R:row (30+inches) PLS:pure live seeds	Plant Depth (inches)	Mountains (above 2500 ft. elevation) ¹ See footnote for below 2500 ft.		Piedmont and Tidewater ²		Coastal Plain ²	
			Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates
Red Clover	B:10-15; D:8-10	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 30	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 20
Red Clover (sod seeded into grass)	B:10-15; D:8-10	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 ³ Aug 1 -Sep 1 ³ Mar 1 -Mar 20	Aug 1 -Sep 15 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 ³ Oct 7-Oct 15 ³ Feb 20-Mar 10	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20	Sep 1 -Sep 30 ³ Oct 7-Oct 15 ³ Feb 15-Feb 28	Sep 1 -Oct 31 Feb 10-Mar 15
Redtop	B: 3-6; D: 2-4	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	Sep 1-Oct 31 Feb 15-Mar 20
Reed Canarygrass	B:5-10; D:4-8	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Mar 1-Mar 31	Not well adapted	
Rescuegrass (Prairiegrass)	B:25-35; D:20-25	½ - ¾	Aug 20-Sep 7 Mar 15-Mar 30	Aug 15-Oct 1 Mar 1-Apr 30	Sep 1-Sep 15 Mar 1-Mar 30	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Apr 30	Sep 1-Sep 30	Aug 25-Oct 25
Rye cereal	B:120; D:100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1-Nov 15
Ryegrass	B:30-40; D:20-30	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 31	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	Sep 1-Oct 31
Sericea Lespedeza (Dehulled)	B:20-40; D:15-30	¼ - ½	Mar 15-Apr 15	Mar 1 -Apr 30	Mar 1 -Mar 20	Feb 15-Apr 30	Mar 1 -Mar 20	Feb 15-Apr 30
Small Grain Mix (2 Grains)	Reduce each selection by 50%	1 - 2	See dates for smallgrains		See dates for smallgrains		See dates for smallgrains	
Smallgrain mixed with annual ryegrass	Reduce Smallgrain by 25% & ryegrass by 50%	½ - 1	See dates for grains and ryegrass		See dates for grains and ryegrass		See dates for	grains and ryegrass
Smooth Bromegrass	B:10-20; D:8-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Not well adapted		Not adapted	
Sorghum, Forage (Silage)	R:4-6	1 - 1 ½	May 15-May 31	May 1 -Jun 30	May 1 -May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Sorghum-Sudan	B:35-40; D:20-30; R:15-20	½ - 1	May 15-May 31	May 1 -Jun 30	May 1 -May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Subterranean clover	B:10-20; D:8-15	¼ - ½	Not well adapted		Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 15-Oct 25	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Sudangrass	B:30-40; D:20-25	1 - 2	May 15-May 31	May 1 -Jun 30	May 1 -May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Sweetclover	B:20-30; D:10-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 1 -Apr 7	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Mar 1 -Mar 31	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Switchgrass	B:8-12 PLS; D:6-10 PLS	½ - ¾	May 15-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-Jun 1	Apr 1-Jun 30	Apr 10-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Tall Fescue	B:15-20; D:10-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	Sep 1-Oct 31 Feb 15-Mar 20
Tall Fescue + Ladino Clover	B:10 + 4; D:8 + 3	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30 heavy soils only	Sep 1-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20
Tall Fescue + Red Clover	B:10 + 8; D:8 + 6	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30 heavy soils only	Sep 1-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20
Timothy	B:10-12; D:8-10	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Not well adapted		Not adapted	
Triticale	B: 120; D: 100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1-Nov 15
Vetch (Common, Hairy)	B:25-40; D:20-30 B:20-30; D: 15-20	½ - 1 ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 30	Aug 25-Sep 30	Aug 25-Oct 25	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 25
Wheat	B: 120; D: 100	1 - 2	Aug 1 -Aug 20	Aug 1 -Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1 -Nov 15

¹ May extend the fall dates by 20 days, where elevation is below 2,500 feet, and seed 15 days earlier in spring.

² For the black, heavy-textured soils in the tidewater region use dates for the piedmont.

³ The best time to sod seed depends on the prevalence of insects in late August and early September and the drought prediction for September. If insects are not evident and moisture is adequate, plant on the early dates.

⁴ Alfalfa can be successfully seeded into a sod in mid- to late winter (same as ladino) provided that the grass sod is killed the previous fall (in October or November).

For the 5 smallgrains mixed with crimson clover reduce the clover by 25% and the smallgrain by 30%.

Crimson clover + oats

Crimson clover + wheat

Crimson clover + rye (you will find it listed as rye cereal)

Crimson clover + triticale

Crimson clover + barley

Crimson clover + annual ryegrass (reduce clover from alone rate by 25% and the ryegrass by 50%).

For the following reduce the ryegrass by 50% and the respective smallgrain by 25% for the respective planting methods of D (drill) or B (broadcast) as compared to what they are seeded alone.

Annual ryegrass + oats

Annual ryegrass, wheat

Annual ryegrass, rye

Annual ryegrass, triticale

Annual ryegrass, barley

For the following reduce each by 50% from the rate seeded alone.

Rye + triticale

Wheat + rye