

■ Annual Forages

Annual crops can be used for mid to late summer forage production providing good options for pasture or hay land. When selecting an annual crop, the rancher should decide on the intended use (grazing, hay, or both). Some annual forage provides good hay but lacks sufficient root structure to support grazing, while others are recommended for pasture use only. Many annual forage crops can be hayed or grazed and often used for both in the same year. A common practice would be to plant a forage crop for hay and graze the regrowth in late summer or early fall (regrowth is very dependent on late summer moisture conditions and a risk exists if you're dependant on that regrowth for grazing). Recommended annual forages for hay land, pastureland or double cropping of hayland followed with grazing include:

Hay Type Only ¹	Pasture Type Only	Hay and Pasture Type
Siberian foxtail millet	Annual ryegrass	Sudangrass
Common foxtail millet		Oats
German foxtail millet		Forage barley
		Sorghum-sudangrass
		Pearl millet
		Triticale

¹Foxtail millet can be used for pasture if allowed to reach boot stage or later prior to grazing.

Tip: Peas may be added with oats, forage barley, and triticale for hay or pasture mixtures. This may improve overall nutritional quality and soil fertility.

Tip: All forage crops can be planted throughout North Dakota and western Minnesota, except German foxtail millet and pearl millet are NOT recommended in the western half of North Dakota.

Tip: Sudangrass and sorghum-sudangrass forages have potential for PRUSSIC ACID POISONING and should not be grazed until 18 inches tall for sheep and 24 inches tall for cattle. Newer sudangrass varieties have a much lower risk of prussic acid poisoning. Prussic acid toxicity also increases when plants are stressed by drought conditions or after a frost. See NDSU Extension Service Circular V1150, "Prussic Acid Poisoning," for more information.

Tip: NITRATE POISONING can occur in oats, forage barley, triticale, pearl millet, sudangrass, and sorghum under drought-stress conditions or in the early stages of plant development. The risk of nitrate poisoning also increases with the amount of nitrogen fertilizer used to start the crop. See NDSU Extension Service Circular V839, "Nitrate Poisoning of Livestock," for more information.