



Oats Plus

An annual mixture that that will give both quick fall growth and a spring harvest. This mix can be planted in early spring or late summer. It works well for machine harvest and grazing. Oats and annual ryegrass are both quick growing annuals that make high quality forage. Harvest in fall and get two cuttings of annual ryegrass in spring.

Both oats and annual ryegrass will give quick fall growth. The oats winter kill once temperatures drop into the teens. Annual ryegrass will overwinter (with proper fall management) and produce a cutting of high quality forage in the spring. This mix provides a balance of fall and spring production. Fall production will most likely be less than a straight stand of oats.

Soil Adaptation

Ryegrass component excels in fertile soils. Excellent for nutrient management but apply manure prior to seeding .

Wet – Poor because harvest will be very difficult.

Drought – Fair. Productive during fall and spring, which tends to reduce drought risk.

pH Range –6.0 and higher.

Cutting Management

Fall growth: Prior to the end of university recommended wheat planting dates, a fall cutting must be made. Leave at least 4" of stubble.

Spring growth: Oats will normally winter kill, leaving the ryegrass for one or two cuttings. Harvest the ryegrass at boot stage.

Crop Rotation:

The ryegrass component of this mixture is excellent for building soil organic matter and utilizing nutrients including N and P. However, ryegrasses must be killed for the next crop. A 2x rate of glyphosate "Roundup" should be applied to actively growing regrowth (at least 6 to 10"). Gramoxone, chisel plowing and disking are not effective. Moldboard plowing with proper inversion can also be used, as well as some other approved herbicides. Follow with a summer annual crop.

Traffic Tolerance: Good. If soil is wet during fall harvest, damage can cause stand problems



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High Energy Forages and Soil Building Cover Crops

At A Glance

Good quick feed for fall and spring harvest

Product Formula (by weight)

60% Oats

40% Annual Ryegrass

Uses

Dry Hay: Poor

Haylage/Balage: Excellent

Management Intensive Grazing:
Good

Continuous Grazing: Fair during fall and spring.

Establishment

Planting Dates: Seed 4 to 6 weeks prior to the beginning of wheat seeding.

Seeding Rate: 75-90 lbs. Large seed box required.

Depth: ½" to ¾" is ideal. Do not seed deeper than 1" or ryegrass will not emerge.

Speed: Establishes quickly