

# Summer Annuals

## Featured Summer Annuals Proven to Perform.

**Ray's Crazy Summer™—High Digestibility.** This diverse mixture was created for dual purpose grazing and soil health improvement. It contains 7 species featuring cowpea, sorghum sudan, sudangrass, sunflowers and brassicas. Provides forage during the summer slump! There is also a cool season/fall version of this mix available. Seeding rate varies depending on use and goals. Seed 40 to 60 lbs/acre.

**Summer Feast™—Resilient Regrowth.** This summer annual mix of Leafy T millet and forage brassica will give your herds and flock lots of summer feasting. As with Leafy T, there is no worry about prussic acid. Also works great as a food plot! Seed 10 to 20 lbs/acre.

**Yield Max™—Nutritionist's Dream.** A unique and innovative alternative forage mixture that utilizes both cool season and warm season annuals. This mixture provides multiple cuts throughout the growing season in which components of this mix will express themselves in different ways. The first two cuts will be heavy with the sorghum sudan, while subsequent cuts will express more ryegrass and legume. Best suited to USDA hardiness zones 4&5. Seed 30 to 40 lbs/acre.

**King's 200 PS BMR—Sudangrass.** A widely adapted photoperiod sensitive BMR sudangrass hybrid, with fine stalks. Best palatability. Cattle's preference in a free choice grazing trial! Seed at 35lbs/acre.

**KF Prime 180M & 360M BMR—Pearl Millets.** A compact and digestible forage for grazing, hay or silage. Improved staygreen for later harvests. As a dwarf, it has a high leaf-to-stem ratio, and its short stature means improved standability. More leafiness means better dry down and the BMR background improves digestibility and feed intake. 360M is the taller of the two varieties.



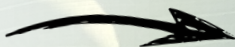
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## THE DETAILS....

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### Why Summer Annuals?

Summer annual forages produce the most biomass for their growth window. In the space of 60-90 days, summer annuals give the opportunity for 1-3 substantial cuts or grazing of high energy, often dairy quality forage. In rotational windows where corn is a tight fit, these flexible options can set up a double or triple crop system, leaving you time to rotate into a winter annual small grain or even a late summer oats planting.

### What to Know

**Always make seeding adjustments with the weather.** Temperature and moisture considerations are key. Most summer annual seeds won't germinate if soil temperatures are below 65 degrees F (Corn is an exception). Avoid planting into dry soil conditions if possible. Planting into moisture is highly encouraged. Smaller seeds are harder to get into moisture since they require shallow seeding depth.

**Summer annuals perform well in the drier hot season.** As break crops, they can disrupt disease and insect cycles, in preparation for lower cost "conventional crops" to follow. Many of these crops are high in sugar and other nutrients and very effective at growing rumen bug populations and are in the mid protein range, and can produce milk and ADG in young stock or beef cattle.

**Harvest time is critical.** Depending on species and use (cover crop or forage for various classes of livestock.) most are taken fairly early in their growth, prior to the reproductive stage. An exception is forage sorghum, which is often direct cut after starch begins to form in the soft dough stage.

**Grazing:** Summer annuals help boost pasture productivity during the period of cool season grass slump. Rotational or strip grazing is the most cost-effective way to manage summer annual forage. Sudangrass and millet have the best regrowth, but sorghum-sudan and even forage sorghums can be grazed. Crabgrass is also an excellent summer pasture crop that readily reseeds itself and volunteers the following year. Many summer crops like Ray's Crazy Summer Mix or Summer Feast are also popular for grazing.

**Select appropriate species to grow for your needed outcome.** Each farm, each year, this might be different, whether this means a forage, cover/smother crop, high energy, low starch corn silage replacement, hay crop silage extender/replacement, etc.

**Correct seeding depth** for seed size can make or break the crop. Improper seed depth is a common mistake. Tiny seeds like brassica and teff should be seeded practically on the soil surface, 0-.25", forage sorghum -1.5" deep, millets and sudangrass- only 0.5-0.75" deep

**When to seed:** Soil should be 65 degrees at 1.5" deep at 7AM, with a continued warming trend forecasted. Seed into moisture. Many of these are like soybeans- if they get enough moisture to swell but not to germinate, they will die. Do not wait too long to plant so the crop will have the head units needed to mature.



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