

# 2016 Cool-Season Forage Variety Recommendations for Florida

by Ann Blount



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Seed availability this year for most cool-season forages should be in good supply. There was reported difficulty with local production of cereal rye, however seed producers from outside the state indicated that seed yields and quality were very good and seed availability for small grains, ryegrass, clovers, winter peas and medics should be adequate. However, we suggest that enterprises depending on planting cool-season forages request their needs quickly to secure their seed so as to have it available at planting time. Some crops, such as vetch, may need to be special ordered through participating seed companies.

Seed of triticale should be more readily available this season. Harvests of TriCal 342 triticale in northern Alabama and southern Tennessee was successful and seed quality was excellent. At the present time, few varieties of triticale are recommended in Florida and include TriCal 342, Monarch, and SS 1414 (Southern States). We continue to test other varieties of triticale that are being sold in the state, however we find that many of these are not adapted to Florida. Those tested were either too late in their forage production or had significant disease problems.

There should be an adequate seed supply on the market of oat. Remember that a new strain of crown rust has been problematic on most oat varieties. Only Legend 567, a new crown rust resistant variety, is available commercially. Next year we anticipate another rust resistant oat to be available on the market. While we still recommend several other oat varieties, care should be taken to check for rust, graze timely to prevent disease spread or, if growing for silage, haylage, or seed, consider spraying with a legal fungicide. A later planting date should also minimize the problem, or consider combining oats with ryegrass in a mixture with other cool-season forages to spread the risk.

As in most years, moisture is the key to successful fall forage plantings. Our current predictions are for sufficient rainfall during our fall planting window, which generally starts in mid-September through mid-November.

Recommended varieties for planting this fall are listed in Table 1. While there may be other suitable varieties, our recommendations are based on multi-location, multi-year testing under our Florida growing conditions.

**Table 1. Recommended Forage Varieties for 2016-2017**

Oat	Horizon 201 SS 76-50	RAM LA 99016 Legend 567	Horizon 306
Rye	FL 401 (very early) FL 104	Wrens Abruzzi Elbon	Bates RS4 Oklon
Wheat	AGS 2038	SS8641	Southern Harvest 550 Dyna-Gro Savoy
Triticale	Trical 342	Monarch	SS 1414
Ryegrass	Attain Big Boss Bulldog Grazer Verdure Prine	Diamond T Earlyploid Flying A Jumbo Passeral Plus	Nelson Fria TAMTBO Winterhawk Marshall (gray leaf spot and rust susceptible)
White Clover	Ocoee Osceola	Louisiana S-1 Regalgraze	Regal Ladino Durana
Red Clover	Southern Belle	Barduro	Red Ace
Crimson Clover	Dixie	AU-Robin	
Arrowleaf Clover	Apache	Blackhawk	
Alfalfa	Bulldog 805	Alfagraz 600RR	
Vetch	Hairy	Cahaba white	Nova II
Winter Pea	Austrian (common)	Maple	Whistler
Balansa	Fixation		
Ball Clover	Don	Grazer's Select	Segrest
Berseem Clover	Bigbee	Frosty	
Medic	Armadillo Burr	Devine Little Burr	
Lupine	Tifblue	Tifwhite	Frost

The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in this publication does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition.

**Table 2. Planting dates, seeding rates, planting depths, and grazing parameters for certain cool-season forage crops.**

Seed-propagated crops <sup>1</sup>	Planting dates <sup>2</sup>	Seeding rates (lb/A broadcast)	Seeding depth (inch)	Grazing height (in.)		Rest period
				begin	end	
Alfalfa	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	15 - 20	1/4 - 1/2	10-16	3-4	Hay 35-40 Grazing 15-30
Clover, Arrowleaf	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	8 - 12	0 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Ball	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	2 - 3	0 - 1/4	6-8	1-3	7-15
Clover, Berseem	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	15-20	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Crimson	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20 - 25	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Red	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	10-15	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Subterranean	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	15 - 20	1/4 - 1/2	6-8	1-3	7-15
Clover, White	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	3 - 4	0 - 1/4	6-8	1-3	7-15
Fescue, Tall	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15	20-25	1/4 - 1/2	4-8	2-3	15-30
Oats for forage	Sept. 15 - Nov. 15	100-120	1 - 2	8-12	3-5	7-15
Pea, Austrian Winter	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	40 - 60	1/2 - 1	Poor grazing tolerance. Better suited as a hay or silage crop.		
Rye for forage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	90 - 120	1 - 2	8-12	3-4	7-15
Ryegrass, Italian (annual)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20 - 30	0 - 1/2	6-12	3-4	7-15
Sweetclover	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	10 - 15	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Turnips	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	5 - 6	1/4 - 1/2	6-8	2-3	varies
Vetch, hairy	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20 - 30	1 - 2	6-8	3-4	varies
Wheat for forage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	90 - 120	1 - 2	8-12	3-5	7-15
Triticale for silage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	90 - 120	1 - 2	Harvest for silage at milk or soft dough stage of maturity.		

<sup>1</sup> Always check seed quality. Seed germination should be 80% or higher for best results.

<sup>2</sup> Planting date range: in general, cool-season forage crops in northern Florida can be planted in the early part of the planting date range and in southern Florida, in the latter part of the planting date range.

The suggested seeding rate for all small grains is 90 to 120 lbs. per acre. If planting a mixture of cool-season forages, you should adjust the seeding rate for each component to half of the recommended rate. If you plant late in the season, use the higher end of the recommended seeding rates for each forage. Additional information to help you with seeding rates, planting depth and grazing or hay recommendations are found in Table 2.

**Other things to consider:**

If pastures are not irrigated there is risk involved with planting cool-season forages. Conserved forage or supplements may be the better option.

If you do plant winter grazing on non-irrigated land, remember that small grains are more drought tolerant than ryegrass.

When planting ryegrass either in a mixture with small grains or alone, plant on wetter sites. Ryegrass needs good moisture for establishment and growth.

Vetch and winter peas are fairly drought tolerant. Clovers, however, prefer good moisture for germination and establishment. There is some variation in site suitability for clovers. While, white clovers prefer wetter sites, crimson, red, arrowleaf, and ball are more tolerant of well-drained soils.

If you should have questions about planting cool-season forages please contact your local UF/IFAS County Extension Agent. An updated and complete version of the 2016-2017 Cool-Season Forage Variety Recommendations will be available on-line at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> in the near future.

This article is also available at <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2016/09/09/2016-cool-season-forage-variety-recommendations-for-florida/>