

SUMMER BLEND COVER CROP



Key Features

Summer blend is a very diverse blend of warm season grasses, summer legumes and brassicas. This blend of 6+ species is very diverse, enhancing soil biology which in turns promotes soil health and structure. This blend is best planted late spring to late August. Earlier plantings will improve the grazing season or build a tremendous amount of forage or material to build soil organic matter (OM). All species in the blend are likely to winterkill, so planting any time after soils rise above 60 degrees until after small grains is important.

- ▶ Developed first for a grazing blend, but has grown as a cover crop.
- ▶ Huge biomass production.
- ▶ Soil health and biology promotion.
- ▶ Excellent grazer.
- ▶ Wind, water erosion and compaction relief.

Seeding Rate

- ▶ 15-30 lbs/acre drilling.

Planting Time

- ▶ May-August

Management Keys

Summer Blend is an excellent soil builder that provides summer grazing. The blend will respond well to fertilization. When being no-till drilled, having double disk openers to create a good seedbed is important. Seeding depth should be a half inch for this blend.

At a higher seeding rate, Summer Blend can be grazed as soon it reaches 18-24 inches in height. Grazing should not go shorter than 6 inches. Adequate recovery time will allow for forage to remain actively growing for maximum grazing potential.

Summer Blend can also be harvested as baleage or haylage and would provide two to three cuttings throughout the summer. Great option for prevented planting.

Components

Sorghum X Sudangrass
Cowpeas
Sudangrass
Millet
Berseem Clover
Brassica

Usage Reference

Summer N Fixation	3
Fall N Scavenging	4
Speed of Nutrient Release	3
Wind Erosion	5
Water Erosion	5
Compaction Alleviation	3
Organic Matter Builder	5
Winter Survivability	0
Graze	5

Scale 1-5 (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent)

