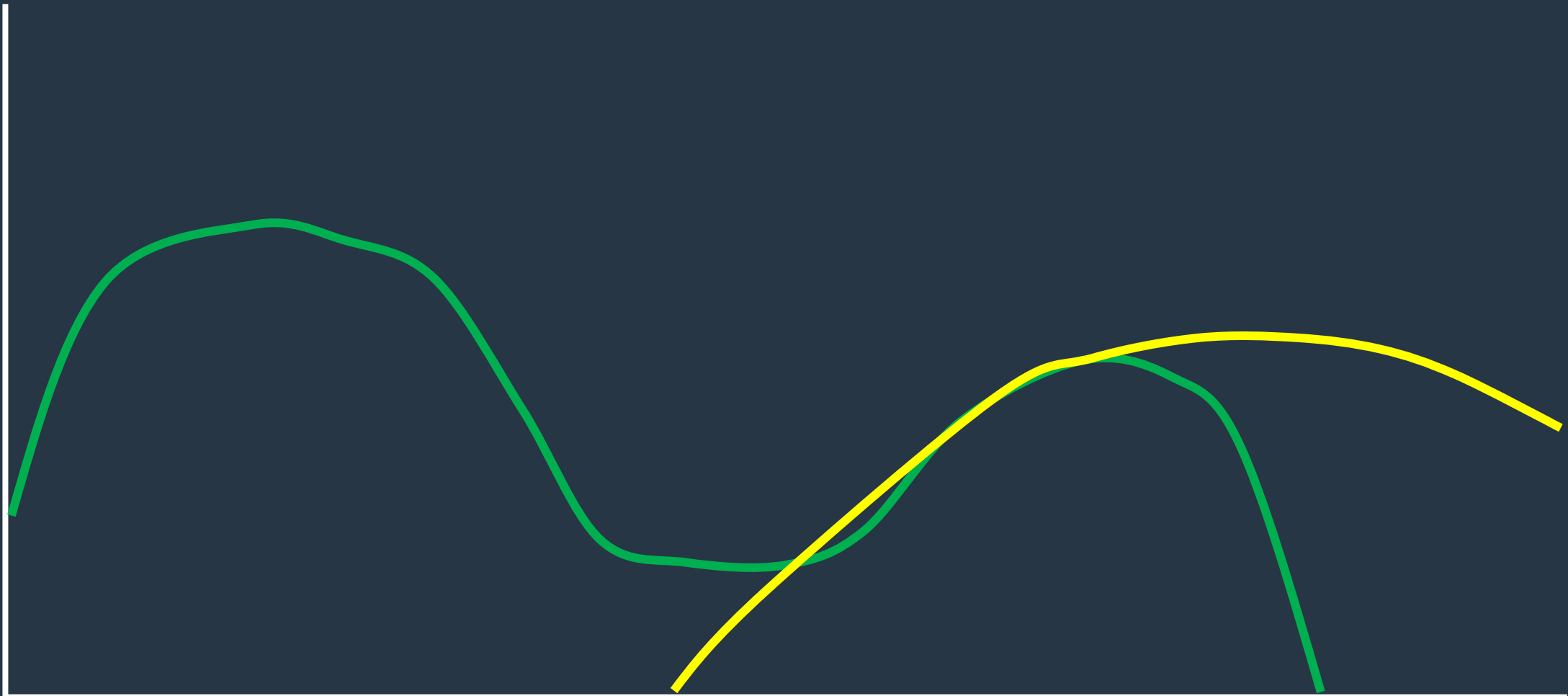


Extending the Grazing Season

Carl Majewski





Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Stockpiling

- Reserving growth for fall grazing
- Less expensive, higher quality than feeding stored forages



What the Literature Says

- 1-1.5tons DM/A after frost
- Allow 75 days growth
- Topdress 50# nitrogen
- Tall fescue, orchardgrass best



- “Planning, timing, and luck”
- Highly dependent on weather, esp rainfall
- Reduced yields, quality over winter
- Animals don’t graze through deep snow or ice crusts



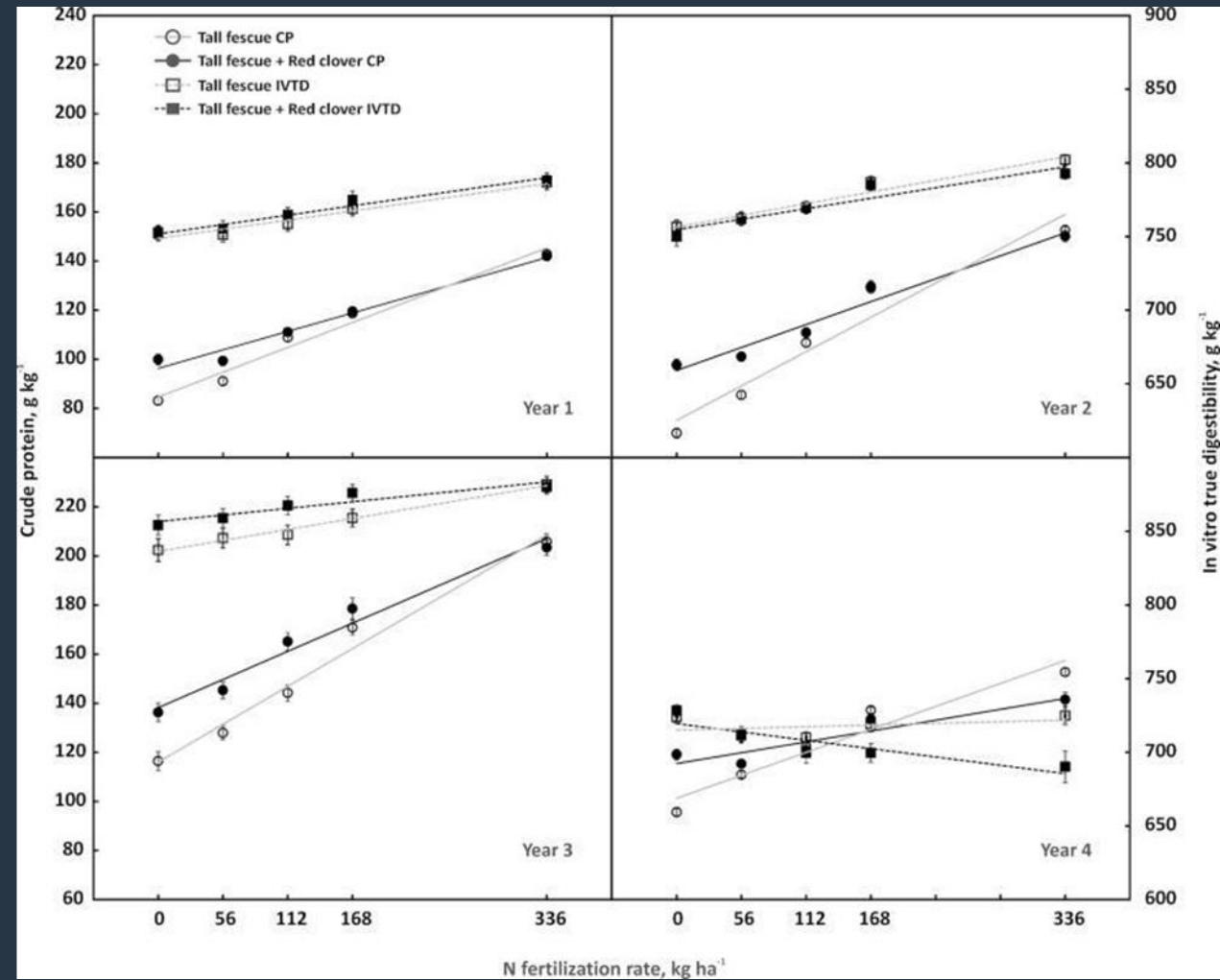
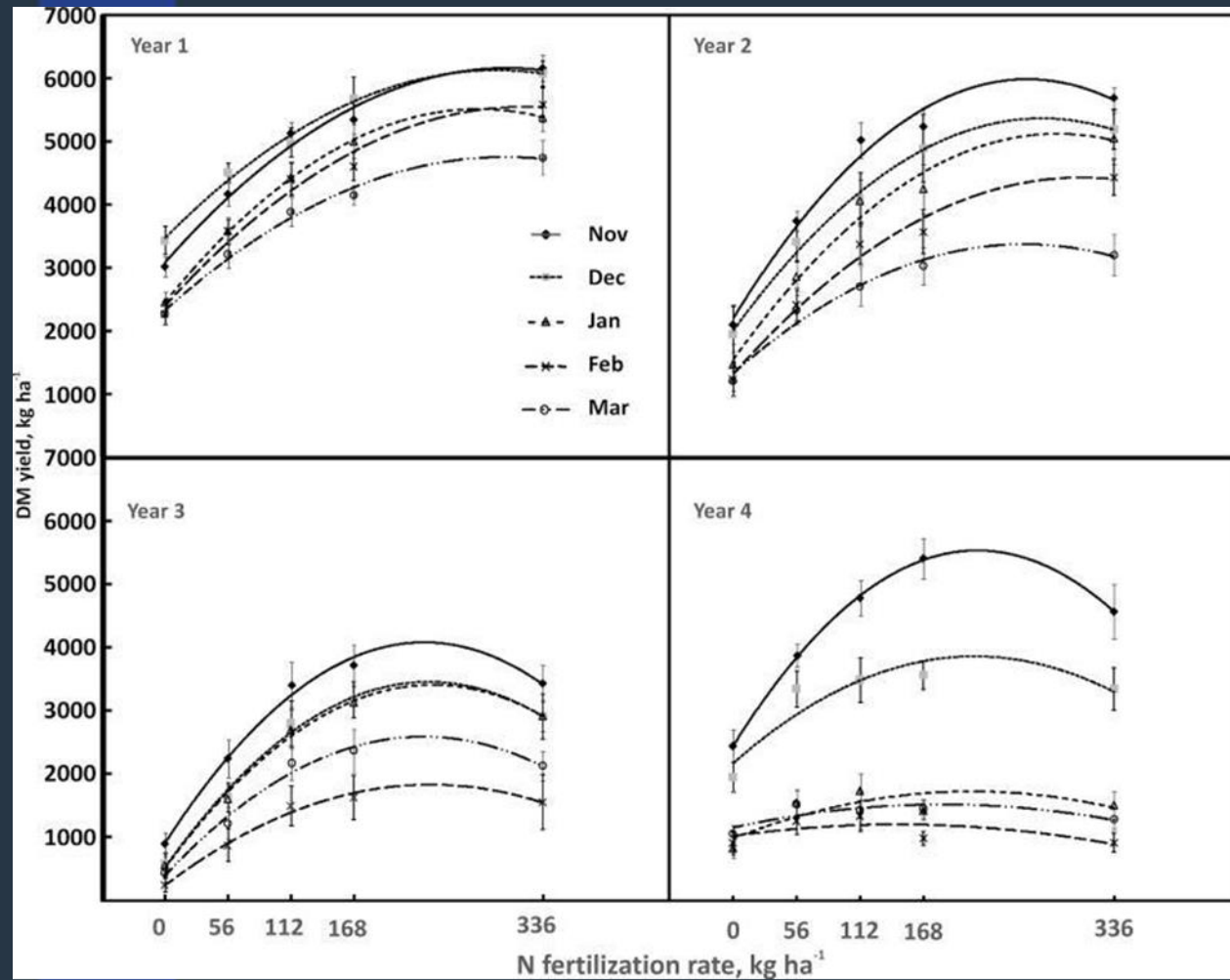
Forage Quality

	Mid-November ¹	Early December ¹	Late December ¹	Avg hay quality ²	Avg pasture ²
%CP	14.9	13.5	13.2	12.5	17.0
%NDF	62.3	64.6	67.1	59.6	56.2
%ADF	31.6	34.0	36.0	38.1	33.5

¹ Mata-Padrino et al. 2015. Agron J. 107:1048-1054

²DairyOne Interactive Feed Composition Library

Effect of N Fertilization



Does Stockpiling Affect Spring Growth?

- Grazing after dormancy doesn't deplete CHO reserves
- Treading may increase winter injury
- Tillering, encroaching weeds?
- Keep residence under 7d
- Maintain 3-4" residue
- Avoid excessively wet areas
- Use sacrifice paddock, feed hay until ground freezes?



What the Farmers Say

- Make sure you have the land base to set aside
- Make sure they're accessible, with available water
- Forage quality is good until Thanksgiving, then declines
- Better out of public view
- Plan for effective strip grazing



Image: *Hay and Forage*, March 2018

Stockpiling Math

- Assume:
 - Flock of 30 cattle, 25# DMI/day
 - 20 acres available
 - 1.2 tons DM/A stockpiled
 - 75% utilization
- $25 \times 30 = 750\# \text{ DM/day}$
- $20A \times 1.2T \times 2000\#/T = 48,000\#$
 $48,000 \times 0.75 = 36,000\# \text{ available}$
- $36,000\#/750\# = 48 \text{ days}$
- $750\# \times 90d = 67,500\# \text{ DM}$
 $67,500/1800 = 38A \text{ required}$





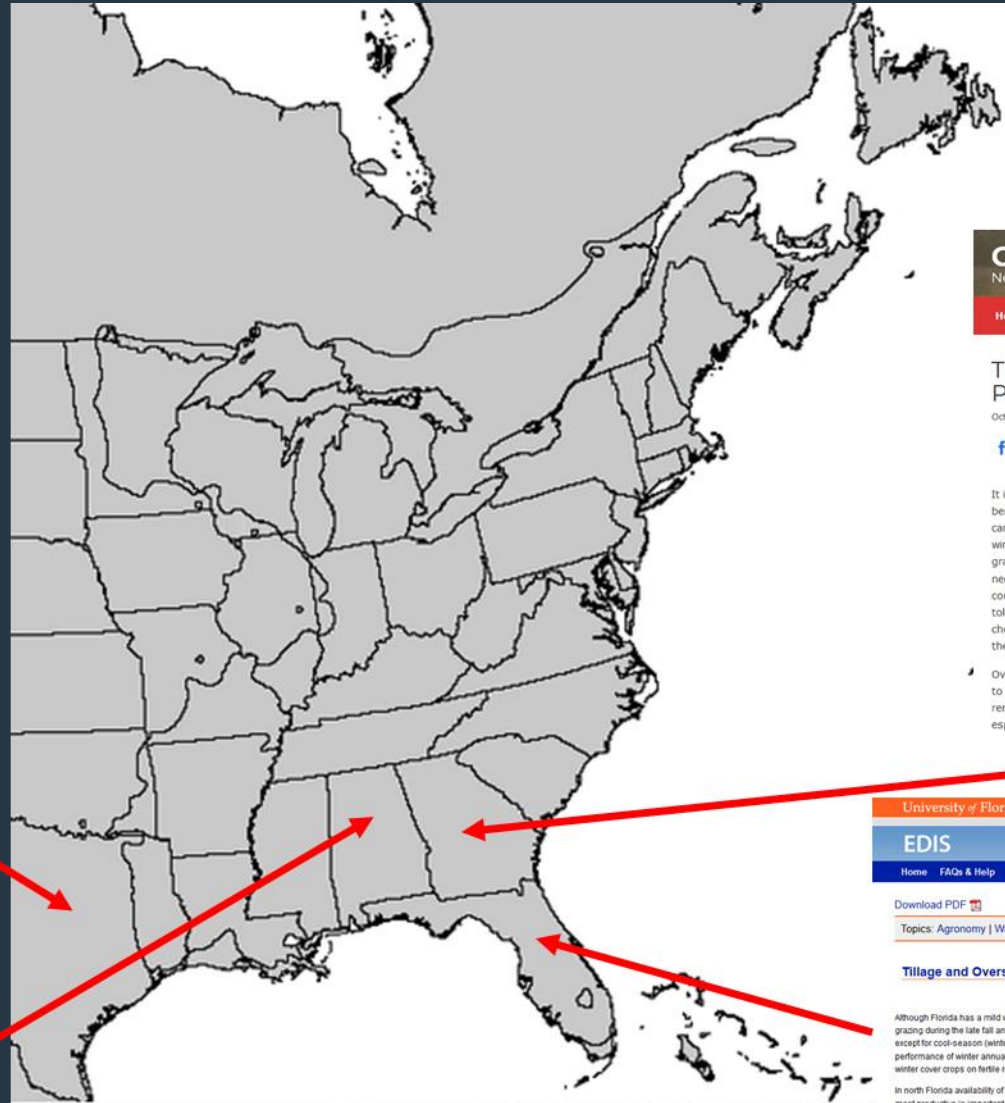
A Guide to Overseeding Warm-Season Perennial Grasses with Cool-Season Annuals

Gerald W. Evers, Regents Fellow and Professor
Texas A&M University
Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Overton, Texas 75684

Introduction

In the Lower South, defined as adaptation zone A in Southern Forages (1), warm-season perennial grasses are the basis of pasture systems. In the Middle South, defined as adaptation zone B in Southern Forages (1), a combination of warm-season and cool-season perennial grasses are grown. The growing season of warm-season perennial grasses in the southeastern US is from the last killing frost in early spring to the first killing frost in late autumn with the peak growing period in May and June (5). The predominant species are bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* [L.] Pers.), bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum* Flugge), and dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum* Polr.).

The hot and dry periods during the summer prevent or impede persistence of cool-season perennial grasses in the Lower South. Cool-season perennial grasses with a small spring annual



Colquitt County Ag Report

News, events, and happenings in agriculture.

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Time the Start Thinking about Over Seeding Your Pastures

Oct 11, 2016 | Written by [Jeremy Kichler](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)



It is October and it is time to think about overseeding your pastures. Warm season perennial forage crops like bermudagrass and bahiagrass supply forage for about five or six months. Overseeding these pastures with winter annuals can provide an additional 80 to 100 days of high quality forage. Fall overseeding usually does not provide fall and early winter grazing. Quality of forage increases rapidly from overseeded crops in mid-winter and early spring. Small grains such as wheat, oats and rye produce more forage early in the season. This is especially important when forage needs are critical. Oats may be planted earlier than other small grains. Rye has the best cold tolerance. Clovers can contribute nitrogen to your perennial pastures. Be sure to plant clovers in a well drained situation because clovers do not tolerate wet conditions. Clovers can be planted with small grains or ryegrass. Crimson or Arrowleaf clovers are really good choices for winter annual mixes. The clovers can also increase total forage production and extend the grazing further in the spring.

Overseeding has not always been successful. Some failures are caused by failure to remove growth of summer crop, failure to get good seed to soil contact, and lack of plant nutrients. The accumulated growth should be removed and this can be removed by close grazing. Research has been shown that it is preferable to a height of 1 inch or less if possible. This is especially important with small seeded forage species.

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Publication #SS-AGR-43

Topics: Agronomy | Wright, David L | Blount, Ann R. Soffes | Cool-Season Forage | North Florida Forages

Tillage and Overseeding Pastures for Winter Forage Production in North Florida¹

D. L. Wright, A. R. Blount, S. George, and J. Small²

Although Florida has a mild winter climate compared to most of the United States, warm-season perennial forages provide limited grazing during the late fall and winter months. As a result, little forage is available from perennial grasses from November until April, except for cool-season (winter) annual forages. However, successful tillage systems and overseeding of perennial pastures can improve performance of winter annual forages. Planting after harvest of cotton, peanut, and other row crops is an option for quick establishment of winter cover crops on fertile row crop land that may produce more forage than overseeded pasture land that is not normally as fertile.

In north Florida availability of winter forages ranges from December until May (Table 1). Understanding when various winter forages are most productive is important to designing a forage program that best suits livestock and crop enterprises. Blends of certain forages will allow for extended winter grazing and stability of a forage system, which is desirable until adequate summer forage is available.

Winter Forage Production When Planted on a Prepared Seed Bed

If winter annual forages are planted on prepared seedbeds, the forages can be planted earlier than if overseeded into perennial grasses. Small grains are desirable for early planting. Seeding rates for small grains and planting dates are shown in Table 2. Early planting on prepared seedbeds almost always provides earlier grazing than overseeding perennial grass pastures.

When deciding what varieties of winter forages to grow, study variety trials from state tests. These tests demonstrate differences in yields and time of production of these varieties. Early maturing varieties of wheat, oats, and rye produce more forage early in the season when livestock forage needs are critical. Oats offer an advantage because they may be planted earliest of the small grains. Rye has the best cold tolerance.



TOPICS ABOUT US DIRECTORY NEWS E-TV

Hay and Forages Soil

Introducing Annuals in Grazed Pastures

August 14, 2015 | in [Hay and Forages Soil](#) | [Print](#)





Challenges with Overseeding Pastures

- Limited growing season in the Northeast
- Healthy pastures compete with seedlings
- Annuals require earlier seeding date
- Fall growth comes at the expense of summer forage



CSF Winter Cover Crop Planting Scheduler

[Climate](#)
[Tools](#)
[Team](#)
[Resources](#)
[Videos](#)

Current Location:

83 Ingersoll Grove,
Springfield, MA 01109
Lat/Lon: 42.12, -72.58

[Change Location](#)

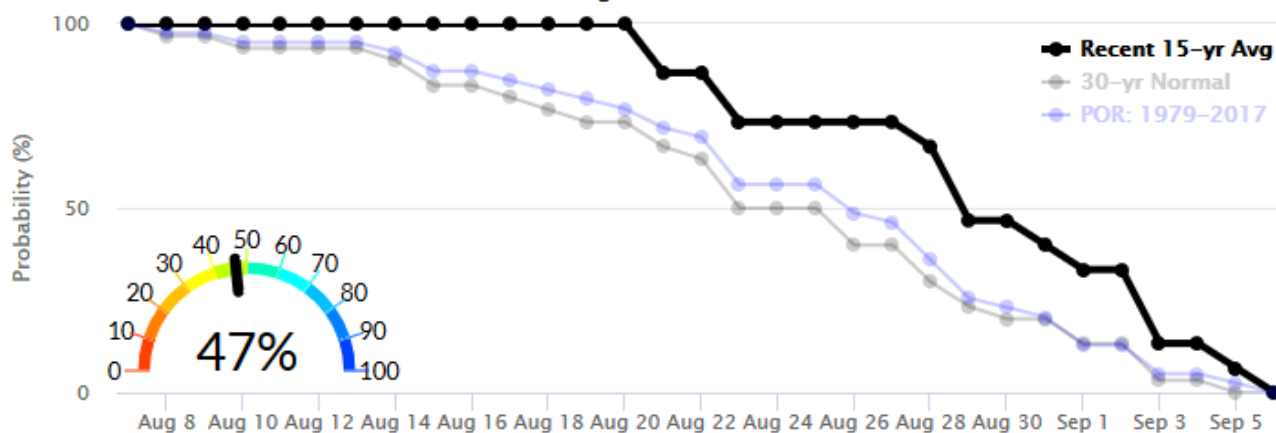
Cover Crop

Mustard

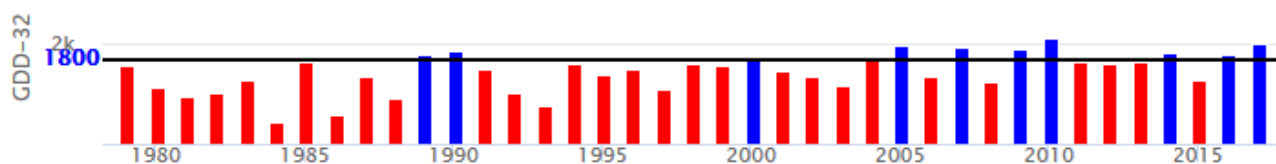
[Info](#)

Probability of biomass > 1.5 tons/acre before hard freeze (Mustard)

Planting Date: 08/29



GDDs (base 32) from planting date (08/29) through hard freeze



CSF Winter Cover Crop Planting Scheduler

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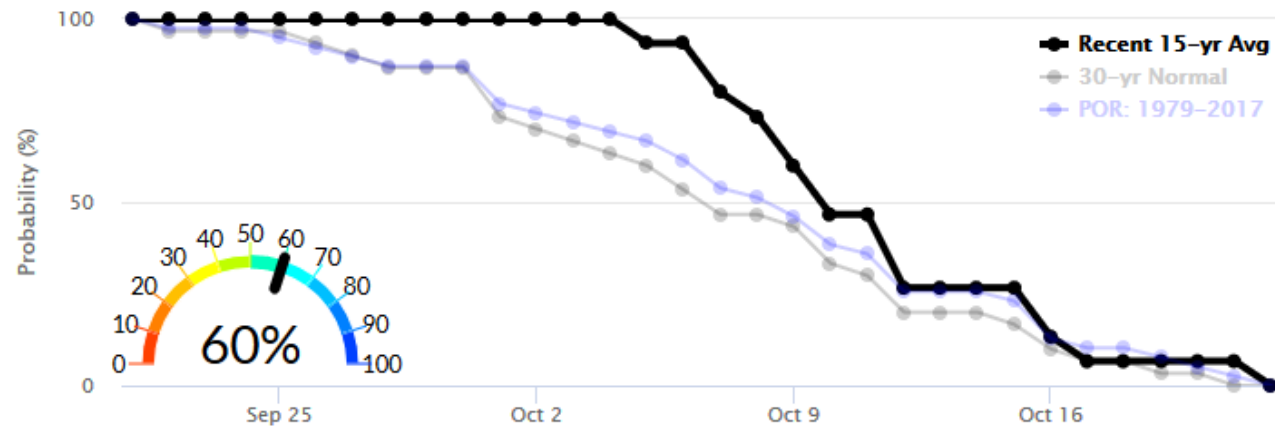
Cover Crop

Rye

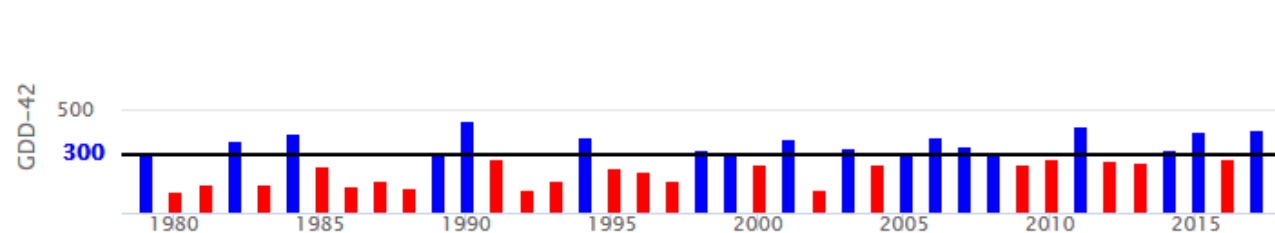
[Info](#)

Probability of cover crop establishment before end of season (Rye)

Planting Date: 10/09



GDDs (base 42) from planting date (10/09) through end of season



Still Want to Try It?

- Reserve for weakest pastures
- Suppress existing growth – herbicides or HARD overgrazing – in July
- Use drill to get precise seed placement
- Seed Brassicas by early August, cereal grains by mid-late August
- Don't have it as your only plan



Extending the Grazing Season

- May be better to work with what you have
- Plan ahead – DM needs, alternatives, etc?
- Overseeding is not the time for half measures!





Photo: Elsiemargriet from Pixabay