Hybrid crop used for hay, pasture, silage; not tolerant of highly acidic soils.

Klubsky Bluegrass
- Cool-season perennial N
- Well drained, productive; pH 5.6–7.0
- B: 8–15
- 0½–1
- 80 90 0.50 2,177,000

Tall Fescue
- Cool-season perennial N,C,S
- Well drained, low fertility; pH 5.6–7.0
- D: 10–15
- ½–1
- N: Apr.–July
- 85 95 0.50 224,000

Oats (grazing)
- Cool-season annual N,C,S
- Clay loam to sandy loams; pH 5.6–6.5
- Alone: B: 30–120
- Mix: B: 30–80
- Aug. 25–Oct. 1
- 85 98 0.50 15,000

Rye (grazing)
- Cool-season annual N,C,S
- Well drained, productive; pH 5.6–6.5
- Alone: B: 30–120
- Mix: B: 30–80
- Aug. 25–Oct. 1
- 85 98 0.50 15,000

Bahiagrass
- Warm-season perennial N,C,S
- Well drained, fertile, moist; pH 5.6–7.0
- B: 30–120
- Mix: B: 30–80
- Mar.–May
- 85 98 0.50 15,000
Many factors influence successful forage production, but establishment of the crop is a key to profitability. It is essential to choose the appropriate crop species for the needed yield, quality, and persistence. Then, it is critical to choose a variety that is recommended for one’s area. (Find more information on which forage species is appropriate for the need and a list of recommended varieties for the selected species at www.alabamaforages.com.)

Attention to other factors that affect successful stand establishment and yield is important as well. Select a high-quality seed that meets or exceeds recommended levels of germination, purity, and weed seed contamination. Ensure that the seed is planted at the right rate, depth, and time of year. Also be sure that the seeding method and planting environment are appropriate to the species.

The planting operation is when producers most often make yield-reducing mistakes, so take time to minimize these errors. This planting guide has been developed to help producers establish most forage grasses commonly grown in Alabama. Information provided about a given forage species is not necessarily a recommendation to grow that species. Some commonly grown forage grasses are not recommended by Auburn University. Also, some varieties of a given species may produce well in certain areas while others may not. This guide simply offers the information needed to have the best chance of establishing a forage grass species.

5 Steps to Higher Yields

1. Test
   • Test the soil to determine nutrient needs. (Send soil samples to be analyzed at a certified diagnostic lab, such as the Auburn University soil testing laboratory.)
   • Apply lime and fertilizer at levels appropriate to soil test results.

2. Seed
   • Use good, high-quality seed and good seeding techniques.
   • Use certified seed for added assurance of high seed quality.
   • Use treated seed, when possible, to protect against insect pest and disease.

3. Plant
   • Plant with a goal of perfect stands!
   • Plant at the proper depth in a properly prepared seedbed or no-till environment.
   • Plant at the proper time, when soil temperature is adequate and moisture is appropriate.
   • Plant at the correct seeding rate per acre.

4. Manage
   • Manage for high yields!
   • Protect against pests (weeds, insects, and diseases) to ensure that the plant is competitive in establishing and maintaining a good stand.
   • Maintain proper soil fertility throughout the life of the stand.
   • Graze to best utilize forage potential.

5. Harvest
   • Harvest for high-quality yields!
   • Harvest at the right time.
   • Use appropriate equipment that has been properly adjusted.
   • Exercise good handling and storage techniques to protect forage quality.

www.aces.edu