

# Triticale

## Your Best Choice for Fall-Planted Forage

Backed by more than 15 years of research and proven performance, triticale is a unique grain crop created from wheat and rye. More closely resembling wheat, it is planted and managed similarly to wheat. Syngenta offers several triticale varieties well suited for maximum forage performance with production flexibility.

- High yields
- High milk potential
- High forage quality
- Early harvest
- Opens window for manure application

### Why plant triticale?

- Extremely high forage quality—unmatched fiber digestibility with timely harvest.
- Properly planted and fertilized, consistently yields 2.5 to 4 tons dry matter/acre.
- Fall-planted triticale produces high quality forage without tying up valuable land for 4-5 years, as alfalfa does.
- Allows flexibility to adjust cropping system to yearly needs, and requires a much lower investment compared to alfalfa seeding.
- Continual green crop systems significantly improve soil health.
- At flag leaf stage, fall-planted triticale has higher potential milk production (4,200 lb/ton DM) than BMR corn (3,800 lbs/ton DM).
- Harvest is early enough to double crop short season corn, teff, soybeans, BMR sorghum-sudan.
- Protect HEL land with fall-planted triticale for a productive cover crop.
- At pollination, fall-planted triticale will produce 25-30% more straw yield than rye, without a lodging problem.
- Red clover can be planted with triticale, or frost seeded, for legume establishment with winter triticale.
- Opens window for manure application outside of normal cropping—manure before August planting.

Triticale Forage Analysis - Percentage %							
Flag leaf stage, same-day haylage (fermented sample)	DM	Protein	ADF	NDF	Lignin	Sugar	Starch
	35	15	34	58	2.9	8.5	2.1

When cut and put up as haylage on same day; sugar levels decrease as time between cutting and packing increase.

### Management

**Planting date:** Late August or early September is optimal. Later planting can still produce good results, but reduces potential yield and may increase risk of winter damage. The colder your climate, the earlier you should plant.

**Seeding Rate:** 100-125 lb/acre.

**Planting method:** Drill 1-1 ½ inches deep. Uniformity is key to good stand and yield potential. Shallow or late planted seed has the potential to heave or winterkill.

**Fertilizer:** Band fertilizer for optimum fall root growth. 20 lbs of N banded at planting (if fertilizer is broadcast before drilling

seed, double the N rate); P (for rapid root development) and K according to soil test. Daily spread manure could supply the P and K. Too much manure produces excess growth and makes the crop susceptible to snow mold. Apply at least 100 lbs of N / acre in early spring (2-4 ton crop @ 16% CP will remove 100 – 200 lbs of N/A). Manure (8,000 gal/A) can only supply half of the spring N; commercial fertilizer is critical for the rest.

**Harvest:** For energy levels equal or better than corn silage, harvest at stage 9 when flag leaf is fully emerged—no heads. Boot stage is an old concept when

cows produced 12,000 lbs of milk/year. Flag leaf provides highest forage quality for needs of high producing cows. Cut triticale, then cool season grasses, then alfalfa/grass mixes and end with clear alfalfa. All will be similar high feed quality in the same storage.

**Harvest methods:** Fall-planted triticale can be spring grazed, ensiled by chopping, or round bale/large square bale wrapped ensiling.

**Feeding Management:** Base the ration on an IN-VITRO analysis. Normal NIR analysis will underestimate the energy level. The NDF is high but very highly digestible.

*Always test for nitrates before feeding.*

**For additional information, contact your local triticale associate or call Dan Rowland at (260) 248-1700.**

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