

## Goat Pasture/Hay Field Guidelines

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Information adapted from the Master Meat Goat Producers handbook co-writers include: Joost; Bates; and Brann.



Most goat producers will find the roughest land to graze goats on. And they should! Because, unlike other ruminating animals, goats will eat 60% browse/shrubs in their diet. Remember, many weeds are preferred at different stages of development. The key to a good goat pasture/hay field would be diversity.

But there comes a time when the land needs to be reseeded. This publication should be used as a general guide for reseeding or planting new species of plants for the goat herd. The list below tells the what, when, and how much to plant.

### Perennial Grass Species:

**Warm-Season:** Plant: April 15 to June 30

Bermudagrass – 6 lbs; other to consider: Big Bluestem, Eastern Gamagrass, Indiangrass, Switchgrass

**Cool-Season:** Plant: Aug. 15 to Oct. 15

Orchardgrass – 20 lbs; Tall Fescue – 20 lbs; Timothy – 8 lbs; other to consider: Matua Bromegrass, Reed Canarygrass

### Perennial Legume Species:

**Warm-Season:** Sericea Lespedeza - 30 lbs/acre April to June 1; Alfalfa – 20 lbs/acre Aug. 15 to Sept 15 or March to May 1 (No-till in spring); other to consider: Illinois Bundleflower

**Cool-Season:** Plant: Aug. 15 to Oct. 1 or Feb. 15 to April 1

Birdsfoot Trefoil – 10 lbs/acre; Red Clover – 4 lbs with other species or 10 lbs stand alone; Sweetclover – 20 lbs/acre; White clover – 2 lbs/acre

### Annual Grass Species:

**Warm-Season:** Plant: May to July 15

Pearl Millet 15-20 lbs/acre; other to consider: Broadleaf Signalgrass, Crabgrass, Foxtails

**Cool-Season:** Oats - 2 bu/acre Feb. to March 15 or Sept. to Oct.; Rye - 2 bu/acre Sept. 15 to Nov. 20; Ryegrass – 25 lbs/acre Aug. 15 to Oct. 10; others to consider: Triticale

### Annual Legume Species:

**Warm-Season:** Plant: May 20 to June 20

Cowpea - 2 bu./acre broadcast; Striate Lespedeza - 25 lbs/acre; others to consider: Hemp Sesbania, Korean Lespedeza, Partridge Pea

**Cool-Season:** Plant: Aug. 15 to Oct. or Feb. 20 to April

Arrowleaf Clover - 8 lbs/acre; Crimson Clover - 20 lbs; Vetch - 25 lbs/acre; others to consider: Berseem Clover



Striate Lespedeza

### Annual Forage Brassicas:

**Cool-Season:** Plant: Feb. to March 31 or Aug. to Oct.

Rape 8-10 lbs/acre, Kale 4 lbs/acre or Turnip 10 lbs/acre can be used as a stand-alone or mixed with oats, rye, or ryegrass