



Japanese Millet

Forage Tech Sheet



A millet that can be used for forage or summer cover crop. It does better in wet soils than many of the other summer annuals. Fast growth and a fibrous root system makes it an excellent cover crop. It has a finer stem than pearl millet and sorghum and makes high quality forage for grazing or hay.

This is a warm season annual, similar to sorghum sudans, with no prussic acid. Dry matter production is 20 percent less than sorghum sudans with better digestibility and protein.

It needs a soil temperature of 65 degrees or more to germinate, and growth slows down when cool weather comes (September). Frost kills millet, but it can still be grazed with no fear of prussic acid. Will tolerate wetter years better than sorghums. It needs good seed-to-soil contact and it's not as competitive with existing grass as sorghum sudans. Like sorghum sudans, it can use lots of nitrogen.

Millet works well as part of a summer annual mix or in a straight stand for renovating pastures, before a new seeding of perennials. Can also be used for wildlife plots.

At A Glance

- Drought tolerant
- Good summer production
- High quality summer forage.
- Less dry matter than sorghums, but higher quality and protein
- Easy doublecropping with cool season annual grasses and legumes.
- Good for use in mixtures with warm season grasses and legumes.
- Does well in warm, moist conditions

Best Uses

Grazing, wet hay

Establishment

Plant after soils are 65 degrees and rising

Seeding rate: 20 lbs/A, large box

Depth: 1/2" - 3/4"

Summer Annual



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High Energy Forages and Soil Building Cover Crops