

WHERE TO PLANT

Productive in areas where other winter annuals are grown. The most cold tolerant of the cereal grains and more tolerant of soil acidity than the other small grains.



PENNINGTON®

WINTERGRAZER 70

ANNUAL CEREAL RYE

Wintergrazer 70 annual cereal rye was selected for wider

leaves, increased tillering and greater bio-mass production. With extensive university testing and over 30 years of on-farm use, Wintergrazer 70 has proven to be a highly effective grass species for use as a cover crop and/or grazing forage. Rye is the best cool-season cereal grain cover for scavenging unused soil nitrogen. Its fast growing, fibrous root system can take up as much as 100 lbs. of nitrogen per acre and hold it until springtime for subsequent use by a warm season crop. A Georgia study estimated that rye captured from 69 to 100 percent

of the residual nitrogen after a corn crop. Rye also pulls potassium from deep in the soil profile to increase exchangeable potassium at the soil surface. When used in a conservation tillage system, Wintergrazer 70 rye protects the soil surface from rainfall impact, reduces surface runoff erosion, increases water infiltration rates, builds soil organic matter and improves soil tilth. Wintergrazer 70 consistently produces 2-3 tons of dry matter per acre. Its quick fall growth outcompetes and shades out many annual weeds. After mechanical or chemical termination in the spring, the Wintergrazer residue and allelochemicals (natural herbicides) can suppress annual weed populations by 75 to 90%.

USES

- As a cover crop to provide cover, reduce erosion, scavenge nutrients, suppress weeds and build soil organic matter
- As a grazing forage for late fall & winter pastures, hay or green chop.

BENEFITS

- Establishes fast providing a quick cover to reduce rainfall and wind erosion, increase water penetration, suppress weeds and scavenge nutrients; high bio-mass production – builds soil organic matter.
- Grows at lower temperatures than other cool season grasses; early maturing; readily killed with available burn-down herbicides; can be used dual purpose as a cover crop and for forage production.

NUTRITION

- With good management practices, rye forage can produce crude protein levels of 15-16% and 65% Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN). Environmental conditions and management practices will determine individual results.



PLANTING

RATE: 30-60 lbs./A in mixes; 60-120 lbs/acre planted alone

DEPTH: ¾ - 1½ inches

DATE: Northern region: August 15 – October 15
Southern region: September 15 – November 15

FERTILIZATION: Lime soil to a pH of 6.0-6.5 and follow soil test recommendations for P&K. If WG 70 is to be used as a cover crop only, an optional application of 25-30 lbs/A starter nitrogen will provide faster soil cover and increase fall bio-mass production.

METHOD: Drill seed into a well-prepared and firm seedbed or use a no-till drill to overseed it into harvested crop stubble taking care to place the seed at the proper depth in the soil. Seed may also be broadcast over a prepared seedbed and lightly disked in. Planting too deep or too shallow can result in poor stand emergence. If planted in a mixture with ryegrass and/or annual clover, do not plant deeper than 1/2".

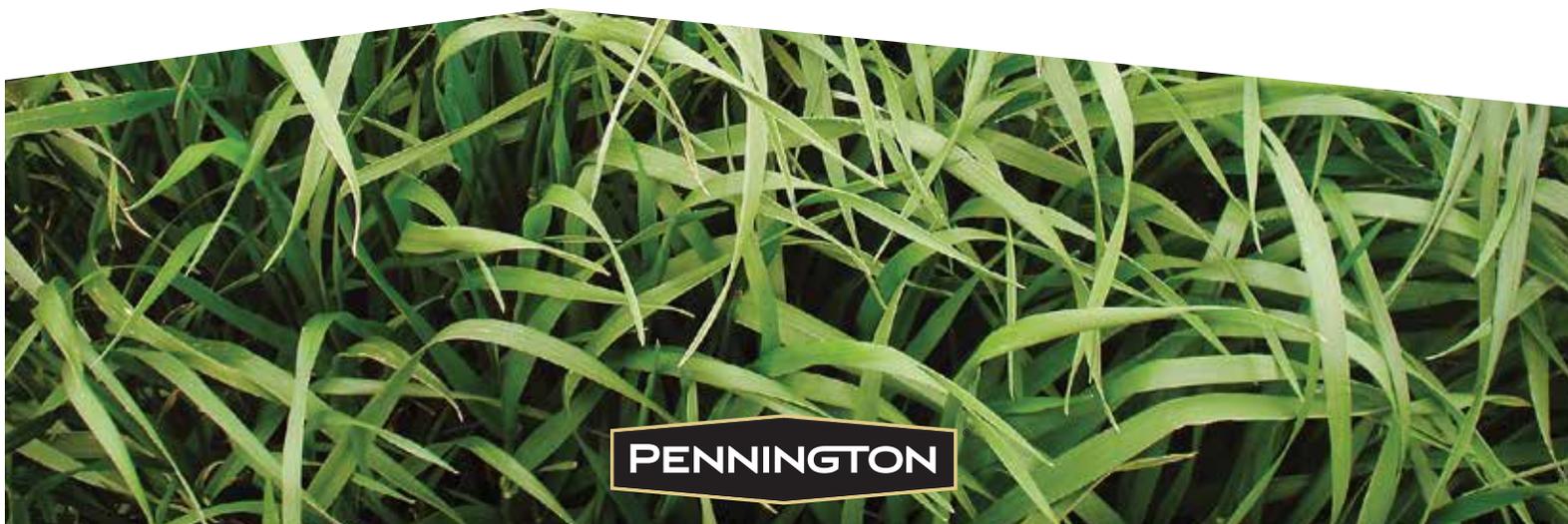
MANAGEMENT

If used dual-purpose for cover and grazing/hay, apply 40-60 lbs./A. starter nitrogen. If additional forage is needed, apply another 40-60 lbs./A nitrogen as a side-dress application in late winter. Begin grazing when forage growth reaches 6-8 inches in height and roots are well anchored. Remove livestock when 4 inches of growth remains. **Note:** Grazing on wet, soggy soils can result in plant damage and reduced protective plant cover. For top quality hay or silage, harvest when Wintergrazer 70 is in the flag leaf stage of growth.

Special Consideration: If grazed, provide animal access to high magnesium mineral to reduce incidence of grass tetany.

TERMINATION

In conventional tillage systems, terminate by disking or moldboard plowing 1-2 weeks ahead of planting the summer crop. For no-till systems, apply a burn-down herbicide such as glyphosate or paraquat 1-3 weeks before or immediately after seeding (prior to crop emergence) the summer crop. Best results are obtained when rye is actively growing and daytime ambient temperatures reach 55° F or higher. Refer to the product label for usage rate, spray volume, additives, nozzle selection and rain fastness. (Consult with the local university extension office or other area experts for tank mix options.) Mowing or rolling can also be effective, but should be done after the rye has initiated seed head development to help prevent re-growth.



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