

PLAN HERBICIDE USE FOR LATER FORAGE CROPS

Got your herbicides selected for your corn, beans, and other crops? Better double check if a cover crop, pasture, or hay planting is a possibility during the next year and a half.

Many of our biggest success stories with forage and pasture crops recently have come from using annuals. No matter when you could use something to graze, including winter, an annual plant could be found that would work well if managed properly.

Many times a small grain like oats or rye fit our needs. Other times it's been a brassica like turnips and forage rape. Once in a while we've used millets.

But there have been frustrations. One of the biggest frustrations has been herbicide limitations. Many forages are affected by herbicide carryover, such as from atrazine. Often we identify a forage or cover crop to plant but the risk of failure is too high due to herbicides. This problem isn't limited to annual forages, either. Perennial grasses and alfalfa also are sensitive to herbicide carryover.

Legal replant and rotation restrictions also cause herbicide limitations. With many herbicides it may be okay to plant a cover crop, but that cover crop cannot be used legally as a forage.

So, is this important to you? Do you want to fly rye or turnip seed into your standing corn later this year for extra fall pasture? How about planting triticale this fall or oats next spring? Or maybe irrigated pasture or alfalfa?

These options may not be available if you use many common herbicides. Keep your options open. Rethink your herbicide plans. Maybe you can control weeds and maintain the flexibility to plant any forage just by making a small change in the herbicides you use now.

Then you, too, can build a success story from annual forages.

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