

ANNUAL FORAGE VARIETY TRIAL: PULSES

Annual forage pulses such as peas, lentils and faba beans can improve soil structure by the addition of residues and more organic matter to soil, this can in turn lead to enhanced water holding capacity and improved soil health in high clay and poor-quality soils in the Peace Region. This trial examined different varieties of annual forage pulses in terms of yield to help producers select varieties that are best suited to their soils.

The varieties and mixes used in this study are:

- CDC Austenson barley
- CDC Baler oats
- Taza triticale
- Barley + CDC Meadow peas
- Oats + CDC Meadow peas
- Triticale + CDC Meadow peas
- Barley + lentils
- Oats + lentils
- Triticale + lentils
- Barley + Snowbird faba beans
- Oats + Snowbird faba beans
- Triticale + Snowbird faba beans

Key Points:

- **No significant differences in forage yield among mixes**
- **Oat mixes tend to have more biomass than barley and triticale mixes**

Task	Timeline	Details
Seeding	May 27	Barley 57-114 lb/ac Oats 41-82 lb/ac Triticale 76-152 lb/ac Peas 129 lb/ac Lentils 22 lb/ac Faba beans 133 lb/ac
Maintenance	May 10 - June 24	Urea 110 lb/ac S15 80 lb/ac Glyphosate (pre-seed) 1 L/ac Coragen 0.71 L/ac
Harvest	Aug. 19	Forage harvester

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There were no significant differences among the leguminous forage varieties.

Further research is required to evaluate the quality of silage as well as the impacts of weeds, and diseases and pests of the annual forage pulses under local growing conditions. This can provide useful information for producers in the North Peace Region in selecting pulse varieties to increase silage yield and quality.

Silage yield (lb/ac) of different mixes of annual forage pulses

