

ANNUAL FORAGE VARIETY TRIAL: SPRING/WINTER CEREALS

In the Peace Region, forage production is often limited by cool temperatures, a short growing season, and uneven rainfall. Annual cereal crops offer a practical solution to these challenges, providing a reliable source of nutritious feed and substantial biomass within a single growing year. Crops like barley, oats, triticale, and wheat not only supplement feed resources when perennial forages are scarce but also contribute to soil improvement. Their residue inputs can boost soil organic matter, promote better structure, and increase moisture retention—benefits that are especially valuable for the region’s dense, clay-based soils. This research trial aims to compare a range of spring and winter cereal mixtures to identify which combinations produce the most forage and perform best under the region’s growing conditions.

Silage yield (lb/ac) of different mixes of spring and winter cereals

Task	Timeline	Details
Maintenance	May 10 - June 24	Urea 110 lb/ac S15 80 lb/ac Glyphosate (pre-seed) 1 L/ac Coragen 0.71 L/ac
Seeding	May 27	Barley 115 lb/ac Oats 82 lb/ac Triticale 43-152 lb/ac Wheat 57 lb/ac Rye 48 lb/ac
Harvest	Aug. 19	Forage harvester

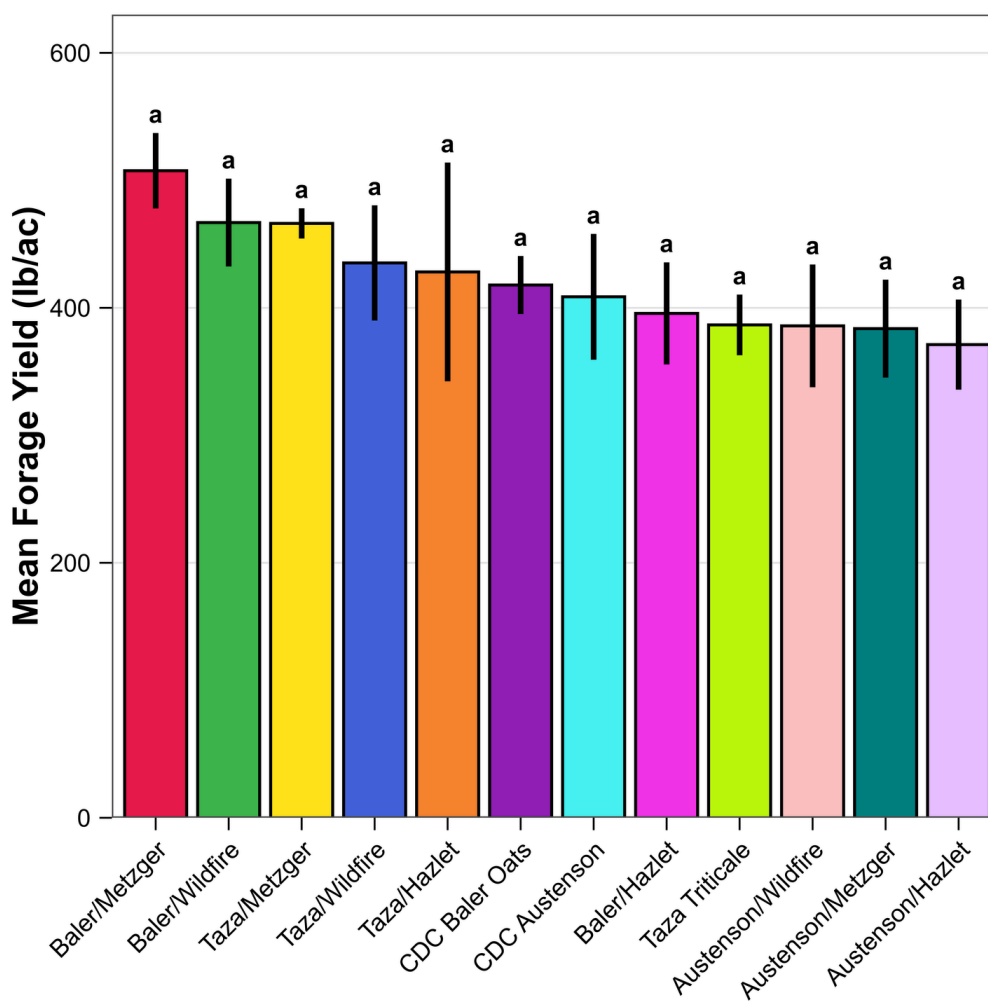
Key Points:

- **No significant differences in forage yield**
- **Oats + winter triticale mixes had the highest biomass while barley + fall rye mixes had the lowest**



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No statistically significant differences among the forage varieties were observed. Further research is required to evaluate the quality of silage as well as the impacts of weeds, and diseases and pests of the winter and spring cereal varieties under local growing conditions. This can provide useful information for producers in the North Peace Region in selecting winter and spring cereal varieties to increase silage yield and quality.



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