

Performance of Cool-Season Annual Forage Crops in Louisiana, 2025-2026

LAES Research Summary No. RS-233

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
TESTING PROCEDURE AND DATA PRESENTATION	5
1. ANNUAL RYEGRASS	5
<i>2025–2026 Field Test</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>2025-2026 Forage Production</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Total Forage Production in Current-, Two-, and Three-Year Averages</i>	<i>11</i>
2. SMALL GRAINS.....	15
<i>2025-2026 Field Test.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Total Forage Productions in Current-, Two-, and Three-Year Average</i>	<i>19</i>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	22

Table of Figures

Table 1.1. Originating agencies for annual ryegrass entries in 2025-2026 LSU AgCenter forage variety tests.....	6
Table 1.2. Planting dates and soil types of evaluation locations cooperating in the 2025-2026 annual ryegrass forage variety trials.....	7
Table 1.3. Annual ryegrass cut numbers and the corresponding dates (day/month), 2025-2026 season.	7
Table 1.4. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the northeast location.....	8
Table 1.5. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the southeast location.	9
Table 1.6. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the Southwest location.....	10
Table 1.7. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) by location and the average of the location in 2025-2026 growing season.....	12
Table 1.8. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) of two consecutive years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026) in the location and average of the two locations.	13
Table 1.9. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) averaged for three consecutive years (2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026) in the locations and average of the two locations.....	14

Table 2.1. Originating agencies for small grain entries in 2025-2026 LSU AgCenter forage variety tests.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.2. Planting dates and soil types of locations cooperating in the 2025-2026 small grain variety forage test.	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.3. Small grain forage cut numbers and the corresponding dates (day/month) in the location, 2025-2026.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.4. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the northeast location.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.5. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the southeast location.	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.6. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the Southwest location.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.7. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) by location and the average of the location in 2025-2026 growing season.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.8. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) of two-consecutive years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026) in the location and average of the locations.	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2.9. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) averaged for three consecutive years (2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026) in the locations and average of the locations.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Performance of Cool-season Annual Forage Crops in Louisiana, 2025-2026

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INTRODUCTION

Winter annual forages are widely adapted for grazing, green chop, hay and silage production in Louisiana. Each year, scientists with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center conduct performance trials to evaluate the forage productivity and agronomic performance of annual ryegrass, small grain forages and forage legumes. During the 2025–2026 trial year, the number of legume forage entries was insufficient to establish formal field trials. These evaluations are conducted at multiple Louisiana State University Agricultural Center research stations across the state to provide information on varietal performance under diverse soil and climatic conditions.

Information generated from these trials is used by the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center to develop a list of forage varieties that have performed satisfactorily under Louisiana conditions. Louisiana forage producers may use these results to assist in selecting varieties best suited for their production systems.

For crops with multiple commercially available varieties, a commercial variety must be evaluated for three consecutive years and produce an average yield of at least 90% of the three-year statewide mean of the top three yielding commercial varieties to be considered satisfactory. A variety may be designated as “Promising” after two consecutive years of testing if it demonstrates acceptable agronomic performance and achieves at least 90% of the statewide average yield of the top three commercial varieties. A variety previously recommended for planting consideration may be removed from the list if it fails to maintain satisfactory performance based on two- and three-year yield data, is no longer commercially available or is not submitted for continued evaluation.

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TESTING PROCEDURE AND DATA PRESENTATION

The cool-season annual forage variety testing program is open to all commercially available varieties and advanced experimental lines of annual ryegrass, small grain forages and forage legumes developed by both public and private breeding programs. Trials are managed according to production practices recommended by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES) for each forage species. Soil amendments are applied based on soil test recommendations, and herbicides are used as needed for weed control.

Data on seasonal forage distribution and cumulative forage yield are collected at each location to evaluate varietal adaptation across the diverse geographic regions of Louisiana. Trials are established in randomized complete block designs with a minimum of three replications. Plots are cut to a 2- to 4-inch stubble height when forage growth reaches approximately 8 to 12 inches. Forage yield data are statistically analyzed to evaluate varietal performance based on the current trial year as well as two- and three-year yield averages.

1. ANNUAL RYEGRASS

Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) is recommended as a high-quality cool-season forage for grazing, hay and silage production on most soil types throughout Louisiana. Recommended seeding rates are 30 pounds per acre when planted alone and 20 pounds per acre when seeded in mixtures with other forage species such as clover. Suggested planting dates are Sept. 20 to Oct. 15 for prepared seedbeds and approximately Oct. 15 when overseeded into existing sod.

2025–2026 Field Test

The annual ryegrass forage yield trial entries and submitting organizations for the 2025–2026 growing season are presented in Table 1.1. A total of 17 commercial cultivars and eight experimental lines were evaluated during the trial year. Annual ryegrass forage variety trials were conducted at three Louisiana State University Agricultural Center research stations during the 2025–2026 growing season.

Trials were established on prepared seedbeds at the locations listed in Table 1.2. Planting at the northeast and southwest locations was delayed by approximately one week because of low

soil moisture conditions. At all locations, plots were seeded at a rate of 30 pounds per acre. Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertilizers were applied according to soil test recommendations provided by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

Table 1.1. Originating agencies for annual ryegrass entries in 2025-2026 LSU AgCenter forage variety tests.

Annual Ryegrass Entry	Originating Agency
Bashaw Tetraploid Lagniappe Tetraploid Rio Cana	Nutrien Ag Solutions, 5012 Hot Wells Road, Boyce, LA 71409
Lone Star Diploid Tetrastar Tetraploid MORE Tetraploid	GO Seed, Salem, OR 97305
Wax Marshall Jackson Nelson Tetraploid ME94 (Experimental) ME-4 (Experimental) WMWL (Experimental) WMWL-2 (Experimental) WMCT (Experimental) WRGX2224 (Experimental)	The Wax Company LLC, P.O. Box 60, Amory, MS 38821
Herdsmen	Nusbaum Farms LLC., 26894 Bellfountain Road, Monroe, OR 97456
EarlyPloid, Prine	Ragan and Massey, 100 Ponchatoula Parkway, Ponchatoula, LA 70454
Sweet T (not a brand name) Tetraploid 23 ACTAR2 (Experimental) Rival Tetraploid Cold Green Diploid Bruiser Diploid 23AGDAR4 (Experimental)	AMPAC Seed Co., 32727 OR-99E, Tangent, OR 97389
Gulf	Acquired as Check Variety

Total nitrogen (N) application varied among locations but was at least 165 pounds per acre during the growing season. Annual ryegrass forage yield was evaluated through multiple cuts conducted throughout the growing season (Table 1.3).

Table 1.2. Planting dates and soil types of evaluation locations cooperating in the 2025-2026 annual ryegrass forage variety trials.

Research Station	Location	Planting Date	Soil Type
Macon Ridge	Northeast	10/21/2025	Gigger Gilbert silt loam
Southeast	Southeast	10/12/2025	Tangi silt loam
Iberia	Southwest	10/23/2025	Baldwin silty clay loam

Table 1.3. Annual ryegrass cut numbers and the corresponding dates (day/month), 2025-2026 season.

Location	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Cut 4
Northeast	01/21/2026	02/23/2026	03/26/2026	Not applicable
Southwest	01/13/2026	02/11/2026	03/10/2026	04/27/2026
Southeast	01/03/2026	03/21/2026	04/13/2026	Not applicable

As a starter fertilizer, triple 13 (13-13-13) fertilizer was applied in November 2025 at a rate supplying 55–65 pounds N per acre. A second application of triple 13 fertilizer was made in January 2026, followed by a third fertilization using urea at the same nitrogen rate in February at all locations. To control broadleaf weeds during early spring growth, 2,4-D herbicide was applied in January at a rate of 1.3 pints per acre.

2025-2026 Forage Production

Annual ryegrass yields for the 2025–2026 growing season are presented by location in Tables 1.4 through 1.6. All three regions produced at least three cuts during the growing season. However, forage production during the second cut in February at the northeast and southwest locations was lower than in other cuts because of dry conditions and colder-than-normal temperatures. Annual ryegrass forage production differed significantly among locations ($P < 0.05$).

Table 1.4. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the northeast location.

Entry	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Total
Bashaw Tetraploid (Commercial)	4,476	770	1,181	6,427
Lagniappe Tetraploid (Commercial)	4,497	436	1,187	6,119
Rio Cana (Commercial)	3,904	377	966	5,247
Lone Star Diploid (Commercial)	3,372	821	923	5,117
Tetrastar Tetraploid (Commercial)	4,026	585	1,063	5,674
MORE Tetraploid (Commercial)	4,108	829	1,068	6,004
Wax Marshall (Commercial)	4,374	731	1,152	6,257
Jackson (Commercial)	3,332	503	1,288	5,122
Nelson Tetraploid (Commercial)	3,822	718	1,076	5,616
Herdsmen (Commercial)	4,169	769	1,184	6,122
Sweet T Tetraploid (Commercial)	3,372	472	1,120	4,964
Rival Tetraploid (Commercial)	3,250	707	1,081	5,038
Cold Green Diploid (Commercial)	4,108	516	993	5,617
Bruiser Diploid (Commercial)	4,783	594	1,118	6,494
Prine (Commercial)	3,945	620	944	5,508
EarlyPloid (Commercial)	3,904	631	1,161	5,696
Gulf (Commercial)	3,515	695	1,170	5,380
ME94 (Experimental)	3,720	839	1,591	6,150
ME-4 (Experimental)	3,434	627	1,258	5,318
WMWL (Experimental)	3,965	542	1,103	5,610
WMWL-2 (Experimental)	4,476	724	1,300	6,500
WMCT (Experimental)	4,844	697	1,049	6,590
WRGX2224 (Experimental)	3,659	553	1,045	5,256
23 ACTAR2 (Experimental)	3,475	427	1,031	4,933
23AGDAR4 (Experimental)	4,476	832	1,369	6,677
Mean	3,960	641	1,137	5,738
Standard error	715.1	127.6	120.4	846.5

Table 1.5. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the southeast location.

Entry	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Total
Bashaw Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,426	1,228	3,865	7,519
Lagniappe Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,343	2,021	4,590	8,954
Rio Cana (Commercial)	2,353	2,124	3,884	8,361
Lone Star Diploid (Commercial)	1,760	1,655	3,754	7,169
Tetrastar Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,200	1,754	4,404	8,358
MORE Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,701	1,158	2,936	6,795
Wax Marshall (Commercial)	2,104	1,274	3,991	7,369
Jackson (Commercial)	1,318	1,911	3,212	6,441
Nelson Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,096	1,690	3,534	7,320
Herdsmen (Commercial)	2,000	1,459	4,092	7,551
Sweet T Tetraploid (Commercial)	1,094	1,889	4,022	7,005
Rival Tetraploid (Commercial)	1,986	1,910	3,235	7,131
Cold Green Diploid (Commercial)	2,141	1,822	4,147	8,111
Bruiser Diploid (Commercial)	1,847	2,201	4,084	8,132
Prine (Commercial)	1,573	1,776	3,683	7,031
EarlyPloid (Commercial)	2,355	1,910	3,710	7,975
Gulf (Commercial)	2,425	926	3,676	7,027
ME94 (Experimental)	1,627	2,021	3,674	7,321
ME-4 (Experimental)	1,216	2,602	5,719	9,536
WMWL (Experimental)	1,428	2,009	4,175	7,612
WMWL-2 (Experimental)	1,552	2,923	6,040	10,516
WMCT (Experimental)	2,294	2,436	5,518	10,248
WRGX2224 (Experimental)	2,263	1,623	3,918	7,804
23 ACTAR2 (Experimental)	1,770	1,940	4,846	8,555
23AGDAR4 (Experimental)	2,102	2,269	4,545	8,916
Mean	1,959	1,861	4,130	7,950
Standard error	372.6	324.0	608.2	536.5

Table 1.6. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the southwest location.

Entry	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Cut 4	Total
Bashaw Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,513	683	1,982	889	6,067
Lagniappe Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,402	839	2,201	1,185	6,627
Rio Cana (Commercial)	2,308	800	2,052	1,315	6,474
Lone Star Diploid (Commercial)	2,203	823	2,364	1,080	6,470
Tetrastar Tetraploid (Commercial)	1,909	769	2,175	1,172	6,025
MORE Tetraploid (Commercial)	1,961	675	2,226	612	5,474
Wax Marshall (Commercial)	2,269	708	2,235	881	6,094
Jackson (Commercial)	2,023	801	2,571	1,697	7,093
Nelson Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,509	732	2,056	1,328	6,625
Herdsmen (Commercial)	2,085	724	2,157	1,521	6,487
Sweet T Tetraploid (Commercial)	2,403	911	2,338	2,178	7,830
Rival Tetraploid (Commercial)	1,862	790	1,895	1,754	6,302
Cold Green Diploid (Commercial)	2,458	881	2,623	1,444	7,405
Bruiser Diploid (Commercial)	2,445	738	2,390	1,247	6,820
Prine (Commercial)	1,846	827	2,061	1,416	6,149
EarlyPloid (Commercial)	2,223	809	2,476	1,095	6,603
Gulf (Commercial)	2,111	809	2,251	1,337	6,507
ME94 (Experimental)	2,128	638	2,160	1,666	6,592
ME-4 (Experimental)	2,344	879	2,403	1,594	7,220
WMWL (Experimental)	2,288	758	2,527	1,337	6,910
WMWL-2 (Experimental)	2,467	836	2,482	718	6,503
WMCT (Experimental)	2,633	978	2,144	1,566	7,322
WRGX2224 (Experimental)	2,146	804	2,231	1,473	6,654
23 ACTAR2 (Experimental)	2,048	979	2,509	1,886	7,421
23AGDAR4 (Experimental)	2,616	849	2,400	935	6,800
Mean	2,248	802	2,276	1,333	6,659
Standard error	227.8	122.4	148.0	266.9	459.6

Total Forage Production in Current-, Two-, and Three-Year Averages

Total dry forage production across the three test locations for the current year (2025–2026 growing season), as well as the two- and three-year averages, is presented in this section.

In the 2025–2026 trial year, the top three commercial entries for total forage production were Lagniappe Tetraploid, Bruiser Diploid, and EarlyPloid, with a mean yield of 7,142 pounds per acre. Commercial varieties producing at least 90% of this average included Bashaw Tetraploid, Lagniappe Tetraploid, Rio Cana, Tetrastar Tetraploid, Wax Marshall, Herdsman, Sweet T Tetraploid, Cold Green Diploid, Bruiser Diploid and EarlyPloid (Table 1.7). In addition, all experimental lines evaluated in the current trial produced yields exceeding 90% of the average of the top three commercial varieties.

Among the 25 entries evaluated, 22 entries were tested over two consecutive growing seasons (Table 1.8). The top three commercial cultivars based on the two-year average were Bruiser Diploid, Cold Green Diploid and Sweet T, with a combined average yield of 7,444 pounds per acre. Entries producing at least 90% of this average included Bashaw Tetraploid, Bruiser Diploid, Cold Green Diploid, EarlyPloid, Gulf, Herdsman, Jackson, Lagniappe Tetraploid, Lone Star Diploid, Prine, Rio Cana, Rival Tetraploid, Sweet T and Wax Marshall. These entries are classified as “Promising.” Experimental lines, including ME94, ME-4, WMWL, WMWL-2 and WMCT, also exceeded 90% of the top three commercial cultivar average; however, these experimental entries are not commercially available.

A total of 16 entries completed three consecutive years of field evaluation (Table 1.9). The top three commercial varieties based on the three-year average were More Tetraploid, Rio Cana and Wax Marshall, with an average yield of 8,388 pounds per acre. Commercial varieties producing at least 90% of this average included Bashaw Tetraploid, EarlyPloid, Gulf, Herdsman, Lagniappe Tetraploid, More Tetraploid, Prine, Rio Cana and Wax Marshall. These nine annual ryegrass varieties are satisfactory for use in Louisiana. Experimental entries such as ME-4, ME94, WMWL-2 and WMWL also produced more than 90% of the average yield of the top three commercial varieties; however, because they are not commercially available, they cannot be recommended for producer use.

Table 1.7. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) by location and the average of the location in 2025-2026 growing season.

Entry	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Average
Bashaw Tetraploid (Commercial)	6,427	7,519	5,771	6,572 (92)†
Lagniappe Tetraploid (Commercial)	6,119	8,954	6,627	7,234 (101)
Rio Cana (Commercial)	5,247	8,361	6,474	6,694 (94)
Lone Star Diploid (Commercial)	5,117	7,169	6,470	6,252 (88)
Tetrastar Tetraploid (Commercial)	5,674	8,358	5,244	6,425 (90)
MORE Tetraploid (Commercial)	6,004	6,795	5,066	5,955 (83)
Wax Marshall (Commercial)	6,257	7,369	6,094	6,573 (92)
Jackson (Commercial)	5,122	6,441	7,093	6,219 (87)
Nelson Tetraploid (Commercial)	5,616	7,320	6,182	6,373 (89)
Herdsmen (Commercial)	6,122	7,551	6,487	6,720 (94)
Sweet T Tetraploid (Commercial)	4,964	7,005	7,830	6,600 (92)
Rival Tetraploid (Commercial)	5,038	7,131	6,302	6,157 (86)
Cold Green Diploid (Commercial)	5,617	8,111	7,405	7,044 (99)
Bruiser Diploid (Commercial)	6,494	8,132	6,820	7,149 (100)
Prine (Commercial)	5,508	7,031	6,149	6,230 (87)
EarlyPloid (Commercial)	5,696	7,975	6,603	6,758 (95)
Gulf (Commercial)	5,380	7,027	6,507	6,305 (88)
ME94 (Experimental)	6,150	7,321	6,036	6,503 (91)
ME-4 (Experimental)	5,318	9,536	7,220	7,358 (103)
WMWL (Experimental)	5,610	7,612	6,910	6,711 (94)
WMWL-2 (Experimental)	6,500	10,516	6,503	7,840 (110)
WMCT (Experimental)	6,590	10,248	7,322	8,053 (113)
WRGX2224 (Experimental)	5,256	7,804	6,654	6,571 (92)
23 ACTAR2 (Experimental)	4,933	8,555	7,421	6,970 (98)
23AGDAR4 (Experimental)	6,677	8,916	6,800	7,464 (105)
Mean	5,738	7,950	6,659	6,749
Standard error	846.5	536.5	459.6	471.7

†Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage yield relative to the average yield of the top three commercial cultivars across the growing season.

Table 1.8. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) of two consecutive years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026) in the location and average of the two locations.

Entry	Southeast	Southwest	Average
Bashaw Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,439	6,200	6,820 (92) †
Bruiser Diploid (Commercial)	7,504	7,280	7,392 (99)
Cold Green Diploid (Commercial)	7,680	7,504	7,592 (102)
EarlyPloid (Commercial)	7,382	6,553	6,967 (94)
Gulf (Commercial)	6,862	6,818	6,840 (92)
Herdsmen (Commercial)	6,964	6,521	6,743 (91)
Jackson (Commercial)	6,491	6,927	6,709 (90)
Lagniappe Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,820	6,789	7,305 (98)
Lone Star Diploid (Commercial)	6,940	6,591	6,765 (91)
MORE Tetraploid (Commercial)	6,759	5,775	6,267 (84)
Nelson Tetraploid (Commercial)	6,927	6,396	6,662 (89)
Prine (Commercial)	7,144	6,399	6,771 (91)
Rio Cana (Commercial)	7,642	6,844	7,243 (97)
Rival Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,297	6,335	6,816 (92)
Sweet T (not a brand name) Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,187	7,510	7,349 (99)
Tetrastar Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,134	6,180	6,657 (89)
Wax Marshall (Commercial)	7,584	6,692	7,138 (96)
ME-4 (Experimental)	6,962	6,682	6,822 (92)
ME94 (Experimental)	8,103	7,352	7,728 (104)
WMCT (Experimental)	9,294	7,325	8,310 (112)
WMWL-2 (Experimental)	9,199	6,988	8,094 (109)
WMWL (Experimental)	7,225	7,321	7,273 (98)
Mean	7,434	6,772	7,103
Standard error	573.9	300.6	323.92

†Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage yield relative to the average yield of the top three commercial cultivars across two consecutive growing seasons.

Table 1.9. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) averaged for three consecutive years (2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026) in the locations and average of the two locations.

Entry	Southeast	Southwest	Average
Bashaw Tetraploid (Commercial)	8,569	7,512	8,041 (94) †
EarlyPloid (Commercial)	8,111	7,255	7,683 (90)
Gulf (Commercial)	8,184	7,505	7,844 (92)
Herdsmen (Commercial)	8,025	7,358	7,691 (90)
Jackson (Commercial)	7,661	7,458	7,560 (89)
Lagniappe Tetraploid (Commercial)	8,583	7,663	8,123 (95)
MORE Tetraploid (Commercial)	9,508	7,940	8,724 (103)
Nelson Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,807	7,136	7,472 (88)
Prine (Commercial)	8,351	7,409	7,880 (93)
Rio Cana (Commercial)	8,829	7,751	8,290 (97)
Tetrastar Tetraploid (Commercial)	7,897	7,112	7,504 (88)
Wax Marshall (Commercial)	8,895	8,136	8,515 (100)
ME-4 (Experimental)	8,956	8,293	8,624 (101)
ME94 (Experimental)	8,094	7,650	7,872 (93)
WMWL-2 (Experimental)	9,878	8,624	9,251(109)
WMWL (Experimental)	8,352	7,948	8,150 (96)
Mean	8,481	7,672	8,077
Standard error	519.9	216.6	198.8

†Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage yield relative to the average yield of the top three commercial cultivars across three consecutive growing seasons.

1. SMALL GRAINS

Winter annual small grains provide high-quality forage during the early winter months. Oats (*Avena sativa*) are recommended at a seeding rate of 100 pounds per acre when planted alone or 60 pounds per acre when seeded with annual ryegrass, which should be planted at 20 pounds per acre. Cereal rye (*Secale cereale*), triticale (*Triticosecale*) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) are recommended at seeding rates of 90 pounds per acre when planted alone or 60 pounds per acre when planted in mixtures with annual ryegrass at 20 pounds per acre.

For forage production, small grains should be planted between Sept. 1 and late October in northern Louisiana and between Sept. 15 and mid-October in southern Louisiana when established on prepared seedbeds. When overseeded into existing sod, planting is generally recommended around Oct. 15.

2025-2026 Field Test

The 2025–2026 forage variety testing entries and submitting organizations for small grain forage yield trials are listed in Table 2.1. During the 2025–2026 growing season, a total of 19 small grain entries were evaluated, including 13 oat entries, five triticale entries and one wheat entry. According to the USDA National Resources Conservation Service fact sheet, triticale is a hybrid of wheat (*Triticum*) and cereal rye (*Secale cereale*) and is well adapted to harsh soil conditions, including drought, low soil pH, wet soils, and marginal fertility conditions. In the southern United States, triticale is generally recommended for fall planting.

Field trials for the small grain varieties were conducted at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center research stations in conjunction with the annual ryegrass variety trials, as presented in Table 2.2. Plots were established as pure stands in prepared seedbeds at seeding rates of 100 pounds per acre for oats and 90 pounds per acre for wheat and triticale. Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertilizers were applied according to soil test recommendations provided by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. Total nitrogen (N) application varied among locations but was at least 140 pounds per acre during the growing season, with applications made at planting and following cuts.

Small grain forages were cut twice at the southeast and southwest locations and three times at the northeast location during the 2025–2026 growing season (Table 2.3). Forage production data

for the evaluated small grain varieties and experimental lines are presented by cut in Tables 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6, respectively. Performance differed among locations, and significant inconsistency in northeast location. However, the southeast and southwest locations showed similar production trends, with the entries such as SS130-06 wheat, GLADIATOR and triticale experimental varieties showed great forage production potential.

Table 2.1. Originating agencies for small grain entries in 2025-2026 LSU AgCenter forage variety tests.

Small Grain Entry	Originating Agency
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) GLADIATOR (previously RoMar) MAXIMUS (previously FL12034) Hot Shot	roger@specialtyseed.com Specialty Seeds Inc. 132 Ferry Road, Anguilla, MS 38721
T298 (Triticale) T308 (Triticale) T717028 (Triticale) T719081 (Triticale) T719005 (Triticale)	Colleen Roseborough (CRoseborough@azplantbreeders.com) AZ Plant Breeders Inc. 1203 N. Scholtz St. Ste C Casa Grande AZ 85122
Ram oat	Ragn and Massey 101 Ponchatoula Parkway Ponchatoula, Louisiana, 70454
LA18120SSB-10-2 LA18151SSB-18-2 (DEER) LA18151SSB-22-2-1 LA18155SSB-20-2	Steve Harrison School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences LSU AgCenter Baton Rouge, LA 70803
FL30A FL10 FL7 FL1 FL5	Jeffery C. Jones IFAS/NFREC Mariana University of Florida 3925 Highway 71 Marianna, FL. 32446

Table 2.2. Planting dates and soil types of locations cooperating in the 2025-2026 small grain variety forage test.

Research Station	Location	Planting Date	Soil Type
Macon Ridge	Northeast	10/22/2025	Gigger Gilbert silt loam
Southeast	Southeast	10/12/2025	Tangi silt loam
Iberia	Southwest	10/23/2025	Baldwin silty clay loam

Table 2.3. Small grain forage cut numbers and the corresponding dates (day/month) in the location, 2025-2026.

Location	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3
Northeast	01/21/2026	02/23/2026	03/26/2026
Southeast	01/13/2026	03/21/2026	Not applicable
Southwest	01/14/2026	03/10/2026	Not applicable

Table 2.4. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the northeast location.

Entry	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Total
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) (Commercial)	1,369	260	680	2,309
GLADIATOR (Commercial)	2,044	780	746	3,569
MAXIMUS (Commercial)	2,289	415	881	3,585
Hot Shot (Commercial)	2,412	671	833	3,916
Ram oat (Commercial)	1,656	566	712	2,934
T298 (Experimental)	2,032	346	476	2,854
T308 (Experimental)	2,800	314	404	3,518
T717028 (Experimental)	1,758	305	481	2,545
T719081 (Experimental)	2,064	219	374	2,657
T719005 (Experimental)	2,228	274	494	2,997
LA18120SSB-10-2 (Experimental)	2,177	582	1129	3,888
LA18151SSB-18-2 (DEER) (Experimental)	2,698	831	473	4,002
LA18151SSB-22-2-1 (Experimental)	2,780	470	658	3,908
LA18155SSB-20-2 (Experimental)	2,545	565	719	3,829
FL30A (Experimental)	787	306	734	1,827
FL10 (Experimental)	1,656	285	663	2,603
FL7 (Experimental)	2,371	154	356	2,881
FL1 (Experimental)	2,085	221	449	2,755
FL5 (Experimental)	2,729	232	867	3,827
Mean	2,130	410	638	3,179
Standard error	128.6	94.3	105.2	717.6

Table 2.5. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the southeast location.

Entry	Cut 1	Cut 2	Total
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) (Commercial)	2,198	2,549	4,747
GLADIATOR (Commercial)	2,892	2,030	4,922
MAXIMUS (Commercial)	2,115	799	2,914
Hot Shot (Commercial)	2,213	561	2,774
Ram oat (Commercial)	2,695	0	2,695
T298 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,948	473	3,421
T308 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,718	668	3,385
T717028 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,828	265	3,093
T719081 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,431	699	3,130
T719005 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,563	340	2,903
LA18120SSB-10-2 (Experimental)	3,235	0	3,235
LA18151SSB-18-2 (Experimental)	2,617	0	2,617
LA18151SSB-22-2-1 (Experimental)	2,830	223	3,053
LA18155SSB-20-2 (Experimental)	2,921	0	2,921
FL30A (Experimental)	3,157	0	3,157
FL10 (Experimental)	3,033	0	3,033
FL7 (Experimental)	3,023	0	3,023
FL1 (Experimental)	2,998	0	2,998
FL5 (Experimental)	2,999	0	2,999
Mean	2,759	453	3,212
Standard error	334.8	277.9	455.7

Table 2.6. Forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) during the 2025-2026 growing season in the southwest location.

Entry	Cut 1	Cut 2	Total
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) (Commercial)	2,763	1,888	4,651
GLADIATOR (Commercial)	2,457	1,109	3,567
MAXIMUS (Commercial)	2,848	535	3,383
Hot Shot (Commercial)	2,598	623	3,221
Ram oat (Commercial)	2,569	905	3,473
T298 (Triticale) (Experimental)	3,701	991	4,692
T308 (Triticale) (Experimental)	3,688	405	4,093
T717028 (Triticale) (Experimental)	4,003	393	4,397
T719081 (Triticale) (Experimental)	3,471	210	3,681
T719005 (Triticale) (Experimental)	3,589	670	4,259
LA18120SSB-10-2 (Experimental)	2,547	1563	4,110
LA18151SSB-18-2 (Experimental)	2,680	633	3,313
LA18151SSB-22-2-1 (Experimental)	2,445	167	2,611
LA18155SSB-20-2 (Experimental)	2,216	1,108	3,324
FL30A EXP (Experimental)	2,519	321	2,840
FL10 EXP (Experimental)	2,596	0	2,596
FL7 EXP (Experimental)	2,739	0	2,739
FL1 EXP (Experimental)	2,637	0	2,637
FL5 EXP (Experimental)	2,579	0	2,579
Mean	2,876	606	3,482
Standard error	218.4	299.0	366.7

Total Forage Productions in Current-, Two-, and Three-Year Average

As presented in the previous section, small grain entries exhibited variation in total dry forage production among trial locations during the 2025–2026 growing season. Wheat and triticale entries demonstrated strong forage production potential, particularly at the southeast and southwest locations (Table 2.7). The average yield of the top three commercial varieties was 3,655 pounds per acre. Entries producing at least 90% of this average included SS130-06, GLADIATOR, MAXIMUS and Hot Shot.

Four commercial small grain forage entries completed two consecutive years of testing (Table 2.8). Among these, SS130-06 and GLADIATOR produced yields exceeding 90% of the

average yield of the top three commercial entries (4,245 pounds per acre). Therefore, these entries are classified as “Promising.”

A total of three entries completed three consecutive years of field evaluation, and all three entries met the performance criteria for satisfaction (Table 2.9).

Table 2.7. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) by location and the average of the location in 2025-2026 growing season.

Entry	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Average
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) (Commercial)	2,309	4,747	4,651	3,902† (107)
GLADIATOR (Commercial)	3,569	3,980	3,567	3,705 (101)
MAXIMUS (Commercial)	3,585	3,102	3,383	3,357 (92)
Hot Shot (Commercial)	3,916	2,774	3,221	3,304 (90)
Ram oat (Commercial)	2,934	2,695	3,473	3,034 (83)
T298 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,854	3,421	4,692	3,656 (100)
T308 (Triticale) (Experimental)	3,518	3,385	4,093	3,666 (100)
T717028 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,545	3,093	4,397	3,345 (92)
T719081 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,657	3,130	3,681	3,115 (85)
T719005 (Triticale) (Experimental)	2,997	2,903	4,259	3,331 (91)
LA18120SSB-10-2 (Experimental)	3,888	3,235	4,110	3,503 (96)
LA18151SSB-18-2 (Experimental)	4,002	2,617	3,313	3,311 (91)
LA18151SSB-22-2-1 (Experimental)	3,908	3,053	2,611	3,191 (87)
LA18155SSB-20-2 (Experimental)	3,829	2,921	3,324	3,075 (84)
FL30A (Experimental)	1,827	3,157	2,840	2,608 (71)
FL10 (Experimental)	2,603	3,033	2,596	2,744 (75)
FL7 (Experimental)	2,881	3,023	2,739	2,881 (79)
FL1 (Experimental)	2,755	2,998	2,637	2,565 (70)
FL5 (Experimental)	3,827	2,999	2,579	2,639 (72)
Mean	3,179	3,172	3,482	3,207
Standard error	717.6	455.7	366.7	288.9

†Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage yield relative to the average yield of the top three commercial cultivars across the growing season.

Table 2.8. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) of two-consecutive years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026) in the location and average of the locations.

Entry	Southeast	Southwest	Average
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) (Commercial)	4,611	4,917	4,764 (112)
GLADIATOR (previously RoMar) (Commercial)	4,450	3,920	4,185 (99) [†]
Hot Shot (Commercial)	3,672	3,898	3,785 (89)
MAXIMUS (previously FL12034) (Commercial)	3,576	3,956	3,766 (89)
Average	4,077	4,173	4,125
Standard error	178.3	167.3	236.5

[†]Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage yield relative to the average yield of the top three commercial cultivars across two consecutive growing seasons.

Table 2.9. Total forage production (dry matter, lbs per acre) averaged for three consecutive years (2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026) in the locations and average of the locations.

Entry	Southeast	Southwest	Average
SSI30-06 (ForageXtrem wheat) (Commercial)	5,418	5,279	5,348 (107)
GLADIATOR (previously RoMar) (Commercial)	4,567	5,084	4,826 (96) [†]
MAXIMUS (previously FL12034) (Commercial)	4,529	5,152	4,841 (97)
Average	4,838	5,172	5,005
Standard error	166.7	162.3	198.7

[†]Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage yield relative to the average yield of the top three commercial cultivars across two consecutive growing seasons.

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