

# Winter Forage Mix

## Formula:

30% Beardless Barley  
30% Cayuse Oats  
30% Beardless Wheat  
10% Tetraploid Annual Ryegrass

**All Seed 85% or Better Germination**

## Qualities

This well-balanced blend of annual winter forage crops was formulated to produce high yields of top quality feed all winter long. It can be used to overseed a dormant Bermuda crop or to follow an annual summer crop, such as sudan or sorghum. The nutritious, high protein feed can be used for pasture, hay, or green chop. We use only the fastest growing varieties to increase your production in the southwestern United States and Mexico.

**Beardless Barley:** The use of awnless or beardless varieties of forage barley allows this mix to be grazed or fed to a variety of livestock. Barley is fast growing, cold tolerant forage that grows well early in the season before the other varieties of forage catch up. Starting in February and March, the barley will head out and set a fair amount of grain, which increases the overall feed value.

**Cayuse Oats:** In Arizona, this is a high yielding, multi-use oat variety used for grain production, hay, pasture, and silage. Cayuse is one of the latest maturing oat varieties for the Desert Southwest, which helps extend the productive season on this forage mix. With an abundance of wide, palatable leaves and rapid re-growth characteristics, this variety is an excellent addition to any winter forage program.

**Beardless Wheat:** Tall growing, leafy varieties are used. Beardless wheat provides nutritious forage or hay in fall and spring and helps keep this blend continuously productive. In March and April, some grain will be set by the wheat, which increases the feed value of your forage in the spring when it is the most important.

**Annual Tetraploid Ryegrass:** Fertilzona uses tetraploid, forage-type ryegrass in our mix rather than common annual ryegrass. Tetraploid annual ryegrass is taller and leafier than common annual ryegrass, increasing yields. Ryegrass is a very vigorous, fast growing crop that produces an abundance of early feed. With its heat tolerance, tetraploid annual ryegrass helps extend the productiveness of this pasture into early summer when your Bermuda grass or other summer crop will start to grow.



## Planting Instructions

### Planting Date:

You can begin planting after the daytime temperature remains in the low 90's as with any winter cereal grain. Usually, planting starts after mid-September and extends through January 1. Planting can resume again around February 1 and continue into mid-February.

### Field Preparation:

If over seeding dormant giant or pasture Bermuda grass, we suggest using a light disc on the Bermuda field before planting. Seed should be broadcast at a rate of 80-120 pounds per acre and then followed with a light harrowing to increase soil contact and improve stand establishment. The later in the planting season, the heavier the planting rate. Keep your operations light to reduce damage to the stand of Bermuda grass so it will grow well the following year.

Our **Winter Forage Mix** should be planted no more than one inch deep. If a grain drill is used to plant the seed, it should also be planted at a maximum depth of one inch.

If no permanent crop is growing on the land, disc and prepare the field as for any small grain crop. Construct good borders and ridges for irrigation. The prepared seedbed should be loose and pulverized to promote aeration, water penetration and root growth. Plant at a rate of 80-120 pounds per acre, either broadcast and lightly harrowed or drilled with a grain drill as above.

### Irrigation:

Irrigate as you would for a barley or oat crop, using 2.5 to 3 acre-feet of water in 4 or 5 irrigations during the growing season. The first irrigation should wet the soil deeply and later irrigations should be scheduled based on consumptive water use, according to the growth of the pasture. Warm spells and loose, sandy soils may mean more frequent irrigations.

### Fertilization:

Since all farmland is different, there is no easy rule for the application of fertilizer. A general suggestion would be to use approximately 120 units of nitrogen per growing season. Adjustments should be made to this figure depending on the soil type and the previous crop grown. We recommend that you consult with your local farm chemical dealer or extension agent for more detailed information and suggestions.

### Rotation Grazing:

This is the most common method of successfully grazing an irrigated pasture. For higher yields and a longer pasturing period, try this method. Divide the pasture into four or more sections. This gives a rotation cycle of 28 days. Seven days should be used for grazing with one day to break up the droppings with a light harrow, followed by one day for irrigation. This will then allow 19 days for re-growth before the livestock are turned back in for pasturing on that section. Using this method, more animals can be pastured and the field will remain more productive longer.

