

TRITICALE

MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS

SEEDING

Seed 100 to 120 pounds per acre in late summer or fall into a smooth, even seedbed free from carryover herbicides such as triazines that would damage cereal grains such as wheat, oats, or triticale.

Seed of TRICAL® Jenkins^{PVP} often is larger than wheat, so the drill opening should be set 20 to 25% larger than the usual setting for wheat. Seed at a depth of approximately 1 to 1 1/2 inches. Rolling or packing after seeding will improve germination and stand establishment.

FERTILITY

Apply P and K according to a soil test and recommendations for cereal grains for your area.

Nitrogen fertility is very important. Superior yields require at least 100 pounds of available nitrogen applied in split applications, approximately one third of the total in the fall, and the remaining two thirds in the early spring. Nitrogen needs are seldom met with manure alone.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND FORAGE HARVEST

Avoid grazing until root growth is sufficient to anchor the plants, and top growth is sufficient to provide productive grazing and regrowth. Manage cattle to assure that the triticale is left at 4 to 6 inches tall prior to over-wintering. Resume grazing in the late winter or early spring after leafiness has been restored. Be prepared to increase stocking rate rapidly when growth of TRICAL® Jenkins^{PVP} accelerates in the spring.

For silage or hay, optimum harvest is at flag leaf stage, prior to head emergence. Use a hay conditioner or crimpier to aid drying. Forage appeal will be highest when harvested with sharp knives set to cut 3/8 inch. Use of a recutter screen also will increase forage appeal.

For use as a hay, cut prior to head emergence, bearded heads may be refused by cattle. If heads have emerged, use as silage chopped finely with a recutter screen.

KEYS TO GOOD MANAGEMENT

Early Seeding—In the Northern U.S., seed early enough to reduce the risk of winter killing.

Careful Seeding—Seed with a properly adjusted drill into a carefully prepared seedbed, with adequate moisture and seed-to-soil contact.

Proper Nitrogen—Provide desired levels of nitrogen in a split application. Insufficient nitrogen can reduce yield and forage protein. Excessive nitrogen can increase the risk of lodging.

Well Managed Grazing—Avoid premature or over grazing in the fall. Allow stands to become well established, and maintain 4 to 6 inches of protective growth before onset of extreme cold weather.

Timely Harvest—For silage or hay, flag leaf to boot stages are optimum for quality.