

## TRITICALE

**NE422T** – a tall, forage triticale with late maturity, excellent forage yield, and good winter-hardiness. Excellent variety for late spring grazing or hay crop.

**NE426GT** – a medium height grain triticale with early maturity, good forage yield, and good winter-hardiness. Some fall grazing and early spring grazing.

**60/40 FORAGE BLEND** - a blend of 60% NE422T and 40% NE426GT. This combination of a medium maturity dual purpose triticale and a later maturity, tall, forage triticale provides maximum grazing opportunity. Providing some fall grazing, as well as excellent, extended spring grazing. The later maturing component of the blend can extend grazing later in the spring than rye or other grain type triticales.

### PREFERRED USES:

**Grazed** – the 60/40 FORAGE BLEND is the best product for extended grazing. Planted in late August – early September some fall grazing will be available. Most production will occur mid-April through early June.

**Hay** – NE422T is the right choice for a hay triticale its extra height and good standability make it a natural for excellent hay production. Most growth from mid-April to mid-June, harvest in late boot to early dough.

**ESTIMATED YIELD:** 2.5 to 4.5 ton/acre

**SEEDING DATE & RATE:** Late August through Mid-September at 75 to 90 lbs/acre dryland or 90 to 100+ lbs/acre irrigated.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### TURNIPS

**Turnip grazing in Nebraska** started in the early 1930's. The turnip is a cool season biennial which germinates at soil temperatures as low as 40 degrees F. It will continue to grow in the fall until temperatures drop near 15 degrees F. Both the roots and the tops are very nutritious and palatable. The root or bulb grows half way in the ground and half way out of the ground. This allows livestock to easily pull up and consume both parts. Turnips are a high energy, high protein Forage.

**Turnips can be seeded** anytime from March to August. Best fall plantings are sown in late July - early August. Early planting gives higher yields but more weed problems. Where moisture is available, turnips can be double cropped after small grains. Extending your grazing season into fall and winter often pays big dividends. Turnips provide good grazing beginning in October and often lasts into the new year.

**Purple top globe turnips** is preferred, although other varieties work well. Seedbed preparation and planting can be done several ways. Some turnip growers work soil like a fully prepared alfalfa seedbed. Others heavily disk their ground, but leave it fairly rough where rainfall washes soil onto the seeds for soil coverage. Seeds can be flown on stubble at 3 to 7 lbs./acre, and then packed to incorporate or drill 2 to 4 lbs./acre. If you drill your seed, just scratch the surface with your openers. Seeding rates should be reduced on later plantings. Seed 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep on fine texture soils or 1/2 to 3/4 inch deep on sands. It is necessary to seed into moisture or irrigated turnips up.

**Whatever method you choose**, good early weed control is essential. Turnips do poorly if weeds get ahead of them, but once started, turnips compete very well. Since no herbicides are labeled for turnips, weeds must be controlled either by tillage or by using contact herbicides like Roundup or Gramoxone before planting. Then plant quickly to get the turnips off and running.

**About 50 lbs. of N/acre** will be adequate. Phosphorus levels should be around 10 ppm according to soil tests. Turnip tops contain from 12% to 22% crude protein and about 70% TDN. The bulb is a high energy feed, containing 35% TDN and about 10% crude protein. Both tops and roots are high in moisture so they provide access to a dry roughage while grazing to reduce their laxative effect. With mineral supplement and dry feed, up to 2 lbs. of gain per day is possible.

**Delay grazing until October** or November depending on growing conditions for maximum forage and bulb production. Cattle will usually graze tops of root crops and then eat the portion of the tuber exposed above ground. Chocking on small turnips can be a concern; however it is rarely a problem. To ensure uniform grazing cross fence and strip graze an area until minimum cover allowable remains, then move cattle to the next area.

**Planting one to two bushels** of oats with 2-3 lbs. of turnips can provide a less 'washy' feed increase forage yield, and animal performance.