

AROOSTOOK RYE

NEW COVER CROP FOR COLD SOILS



Now, there is a reliable cover crop for the cold soils of the Northeast. 'Aroostook' rye is a new variety developed specifically for seeding after late harvested crops like potatoes, cabbage or silage corn. Lloyd Dumond, a potato farmer from Aroostook County, Maine, is using this new variety to protect intensively cropped fields from erosion. Aroostook rye exhibits significantly better fall establishment and more horizontal growth for better ground cover. The winter hardiness, early spring recovery and vigor also exceed that of other varieties. As with all cover crops, Aroostook rye adds organic matter that improves soil tilth and holds residual fertilizers near the surface for future crops. According to Mitch Cattrell with the Soil Conservation Service, because it is suited to a variety of soils and cold climates, Aroostook rye is an excellent cover crop to use following late harvested row crops.



PLANTING GUIDE - COVER CROPS

CERTIFICATION. The performance of Aroostook rye can only be assured by using genetically pure and high quality seed. Use certified seed.

SEEDING DATES: August-September for northern Maine, as late as October or November for warmer areas. Late plantings require strict adherence to seeding methods and use of certified seed.

SEEDING RATE. Minimum of 2 bushels/acre (100-112#/acre). Late plantings use 3 bushels/acre.

FERTILIZATION Not required.

SEEDING METHOD.

- (1) Best results occur when planted 1 inch deep, using conventional grain drill, followed by cultipacking.
- (2) Broadcast seed followed immediately with shallow discing and cultipacking.
- (3) Aerial seeding into standing corn in August.

GREEN MANURE When used as a cover/green manure crop, plow under or kill when spring growth is between 8-12 inches tall.

PLANTING GUIDE - SEED PRODUCTION

CERTIFICATION Rye is easily cross-pollinated. Production of certified seed requires planting of foundation or registered seed. Production procedures must meet minimum certification standards.

SEEDING DATES: August 15-September 10 for Maine. Adjust dates for warmer areas.

SEEDING RATE 1-2 bushels/acre (56-112#/acre).

FERTILIZATION: Soil tests will indicate needs.

SEEDING METHOD Seed treatment is recommended. Plant 1 inch deep in narrow row spacing using grain drill, followed by packer wheels or cultipacking.

HARVESTING: Direct combine at 18-20% moisture to reduce cracking and damage.

DRYING: Lower moisture level to 12% at temperatures not exceeding 100°F.

CLEANING: Remove all contaminants including weed seeds, inert matter, and damaged rye seed.



NEW YORK SEED IMPROVEMENT CO-OPERATIVE, INC.



ASSISTED BY
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
May, 1981