

# Annual Crops to Compliment Your Operation

Annual crops can be beneficial and practical in a variety of situations. They are fast to establish, can have multiple uses and provide a quick return on investment. One of the pitfalls of annual crops is that the producer incurs the cost of tillage and planting every year. In comparison, perennial crops such as alfalfa, clovers and grasses may only have to be established every 5-20 years.

Double cropping or planting two annual crops on the same field in a single growing season, can be effective on irrigated ground but, due to Colorado's

dry climate is not feasible on dryland.

Double cropping is most successful when planting winter cool season annuals in the fall and planting a warm season annual in June or July following the harvest. Input costs are doubled in a double cropping system and should be considered before implementing.

Water availability and timing is always the deciding factor for what will be successful in any seeding plan. The following table can help you decide what annual crop will work for your situation.

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## Approximate Planting/Grazing/Harvest Times

Species/Kind	Varieties	Irrigated/ Dryland	Date for Planting	Date for Grazing	Date to Harvest for Grain	Date to Harvest for Hay
Winter Wheat	Various	I/D	Sept. 15	Nov. 1	July 1	June 1
Spring Wheat	Various	I/D	March 1	May 1	Aug. 1	July 1
Winter Triticale	Bobcat, Pika, Trical	I/D	Sept. 15	Nov. 1	July 1	June 1
Spring Triticale	Pronghorn	I/D	March 1	May 1	Aug. 1	July 1
Oats	Russell, Monida	I/D	March 15	May 1	July 1	June 15
Annual Ryegrass	Gulf	I	April 1	May 15	n/a	June 15
Crabgrass	Red River	I	June 1	July 1	n/a	July 15
Sorghum Sudan Cross	Arikaree, Arapahoe BMR	I/D	June 1	July 15	n/a	Aug. 15
Hybrid Forage Sorghum	Forage King	I/D	June 1	July 15	n/a	Aug. 15
Teff	Various	I	June 1	July 1	n/a	July 20
Turnips	Various	I	Aug. 15	Oct. 1	n/a	n/a
Radishes	Various	I	Aug. 15	Oct. 1	n/a	n/a
Winter Rye (Fall)	Various	I/D	Sept. 15	Nov. 1	July 1	June 15
Winter Rye (Spring)	Various	I/D	March 1	May 1	Aug. 1	July 1
Peas	Arvika	I	March 15	May 1	Aug. 1	July 1
Spring Barley	Baronesse	I/D	March 1	May 1	Aug. 1	July 1
Foxtail Millet	White Wonder	I/D	June 1	July 15	Sept. 1	July 15
Foxtail Millet	Golden German	I/D	June 1	July 15	Sept. 1	July 15
Hybrid Pearl Millet		I	June 1	July 15	n/a	Aug. 15
Winter Peas	Austrian	I	Aug. 15	Nov. 1	n/a	June 1