

Annual Forage Grazing Crop 2016

Grown by Max at Benedikt Dairy

Comments:

2016 had 4 consecutive months of severe drought making establishment of summer crops difficult. The results we saw were none the less promising. I am particularly fond of millet as a forage crop for the dry summer as it needs minimal water to grow, grows rapidly, appears to be very palatable and re-grows for a second grazing. Oats, wheat and triticale did not do well in dry conditions. Our legumes in the mix, vetch and sunn hemp failed completely in the drought. Radish and Canola grew well and appeared to be palatable.

Some measurements taken by Bill Foshier for a Granite State Graziers research project: Canola in particular was high in sugar, with a brix reading of 12. Brix for wheat was 8.4 and forage radish 7.6.

DM/acre for Canola/Radish/Wheat/Triticale mix was measured at 6400lbs/acre.

Report

Spring Planting

1 acre of fine sandy loam in perennial pasture. plowed to 6 inches depth, disced, then seeded with a drop type brilliant seeder

Species and seeding rates in lbs/acre:

Vetch	28
Oats	36
Buckwheat	36
Teff	4
Millet	12

Seeding was done on June 20th.

Vetch, Oats and Buckwheat pretty much failed to germinate, due to lack of moisture.

Millet and Teff did eventually grow after sitting dormant for a while. Maybe their advantage was also being less favored by turkeys and crows.

Seed bed June 22nd



Spring crop on July 19th (30 days post seeding), mostly millet and buckwheat, some teff.
Note the contrast to pasture on the right.



Second grazing 8/28 (post grazing recovery time 40 days) A lot heavier in teff.



Summer planting was done on different plot.

Overgrown pasture, stony fine sandy loam on eastern slope 15%. Cleared with pigs, the disced and seeded with drop seeder. Seeding Date: August 16th

Rate:

Sunn Hemp	6.7
Canola	1.7
Triticale (Spring)	25
Wheat (Spring)	25
Oats	18
Forage Radish	1.7



Grazing October 24th, mostly Radish and Canola (70 days post seeding)



Post grazing / Pre-grazing

