

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2021

TO: Cooperators in the Michigan Forage Variety Trials

FROM: Dr. Kim Cassida, Michigan State University Forage Specialist
Joe Paling, Research Assistant at East Lansing, Michigan
James Dedecker, Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, Chatham, Michigan

RE: Invitation for 2021 Alfalfa, Perennial Grass, Red Clover, Annual Forage, and Cover Crop Variety Trials



College of
Agriculture and
Natural Resources

Department of Plant
Soil and Microbial
Sciences

Forage Variety Trials

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MSU is an affirmative action,
equal-opportunity employer.

Included are applications for the 2021 Michigan Forage Variety Trials.

Locations available are East Lansing in southern lower Michigan at the MSU Agronomy Farm and Chatham in the Upper Peninsula at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center.

Perennial Grass - Trials are being offered for East Lansing and Chatham. Varieties of orchardgrass, tall and meadow fescue, festulolium, timothy, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass have been evaluated in the past few years. Perennial grass trials are usually harvested for three production years after the seeding year.

Alfalfa – Alfalfa variety trials are being offered at East Lansing and Chatham. These trials are usually harvested for three full production years after the seeding year.

Red Clover – Red clover variety trials are being offered at East Lansing. These trials are usually harvested for two full production years after the seeding year.

Annual Forages - Annual forage trials with 4 different planting dates are being offered at East Lansing and Chatham. Entries are invited in the categories of oats, peas, oat/pea mixtures, clovers to be seeded in the spring and harvested for yield in the summer. Seedings in early summer of sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum hybrids, millets, teff, crabgrass to be harvested later in the summer or fall. Annual grasses (Italian and annual ryegrass, teffgrass, crabgrass) seeded in the early summer and harvested for yield. Small grains (wheat, oats, barley, rye, triticale) seeded in the spring and harvested in the summer or winter small grains planted in late summer/early fall and harvested for forage yield the following spring.

Cover Crop – Cover crop variety tests are being offered at East Lansing and Chatham. These are to be planted in the late summer to simulate conditions for planting a cover crop after wheat is harvested.

Results of these trials are used by MSU personnel for variety selection recommendations. Results are available on the Michigan State University Forage Connections web page at <http://forage.msu.edu>. Variety trial results will be distributed through the Michigan State University Extension Service and the Michigan Farm Bureau through the Michigan Farm News.

MICHIGAN COVER CROP VARIETY TRIALS, 2021

Dr. Kim Cassida & Joe Paling
Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, Michigan State University
1066 Bogue St Rm A286, East Lansing, MI 48824

Michigan State University will accept proprietary varieties, experimental strains, blends, and mixtures of cover crops for evaluation under rainfed conditions in 2021.

1. Description of Trials.

Locations:

- (1) MSU Research Farm, East Lansing
- (2) Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, Chatham

Data Collected:

- (1) Green ground cover, 30 and 60 days after planting (digital photography)
- (2) Weed control, 30 and 60 days after planting (visual rating)
- (3) Winter survival (visual rating)
- (4) Spring residue cover and weed control (visual rating)
- (5) Ease of termination (visual rating)
- (6) Biomass at frost and termination

Cover crops will be planted in late July to August to simulate a cover crop grown “after wheat.” Four replications will be planted. Plots will be planted into prepared seedbeds using a grain drill at either ¼” or ¾” depth. Thirty pounds of N will be applied to the site pre-planting. No pest control will be used. All covers that do not winter kill will be terminated with appropriate herbicide in spring.

Michigan State University will conduct the trials in a professional manner but assumes no financial liability for failure to obtain stands or loss of stands due to uncontrollable conditions.

2. Eligibility of Entrants. Any entity may enter varieties or experimental strains in the test provided they have legal permission to do so for protected varieties. This includes private or public developers, dealers, distributors or merchandisers of cover crop varieties, other Agricultural Experiment Stations, non-profit groups, farmer cooperatives, or individuals.
3. Rejection. Any entry may be rejected if:
 - (1) The trial is cancelled. A minimum of 10 entries may be required to hold a test at each location.
 - (2) There is misrepresentation.
 - (3) Seed arrives too late for planting.
 - (4) Seed amount is inadequate for plot size.
 - (5) Documentation of species/variety proportion in mixtures and blends is not provided.
4. Entry Fee. **\$299.00** per entry per test location entered
Make checks payable to Michigan State University and send to:
Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI 48910.

Deadline for Entry. Applications, payment, and seed must be received by Joe Paling by **July 1, 2021.**

5. Seed Required. Seed must be received at MSU by July 1, 2020. Seed for released varieties is to be from a commercial source. Arrangements may be made with MSU to deliver commercial seed through local dealers, distributors, or other sources. If germination rates are above 90% the following weights per trial apply:

Wheat, Barley, Rye, Oats, & Triticale – 800 g seed
Annual/Italian Ryegrass – 400 g seed
Teff – 200 g seed
Sorghum, sudangrass, & hybrids – 400 g seed

Clovers, Alfalfa, & Vetches – 400 g seed
Field/Austrian peas – 1600 g seed
Radish – 200 g seed
Turnip, Rape, Kale, Mustard – 200 g seed

All blends & mixtures – 1600 g seed
For species not listed: ask us for amount before sending seed

6. Publication. Each entrant will receive a yearly summary of the data in November, including all released and experimental varieties. Complete test results will be published by Michigan State University Extension and will be posted on the MSU Forage Connection website <http://forage.msu.edu/>.
7. For assistance, contact Joe Paling at paling@msu.edu, cell 517-242-4155, or Kim Cassida at cassida@msu.edu, 517-353-0278.

MICHIGAN COVER CROP VARIETY TRIALS, 2021

Dr. Kim Cassida, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences,
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Submit one form for each variety or entry and send to the address below by July 1, 2021 with entry fee of \$299 per variety and location

Seed of the following amounts (per location) should be received by July 1, 2021.

Wheat, Barley, Rye, Oats, & Triticale – 800 g seed

Annual/Italian Ryegrass – 400 g seed

Teff – 200 g seed

Sorghum, sudangrass, & hybrids – 400 g seed

All blends & mixtures – 1600 g seed

For other species: ask us for amount before sending seed

Clovers, Alfalfa, & Vetches – 400 g seed

Field/Austrian peas – 1600 g seed

Radish – 200 g seed

Turnip, Rape, Kale, Mustard – 200 g seed

Marketer

Company _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone/FAX _____

E-Mail address _____

Website _____

Breeder

Company _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone/FAX _____

E-Mail address _____

1. Species _____
2. Name or experimental number of entry _____
3. Is this a released variety? Yes _____ No _____
4. Preferred seeding depth: _____ ¼ inch _____ ¾ inch
5. Description and intended use. Include copy of seed tag.

Components of mixtures and blends

Species/variety name	Proportion by weight (%)	Germination (%)	Germ test date	Purity (%)

Send entry forms, seed, and check for \$299 per entry (**payable to Michigan State University/ Cover Crop Trials**) to: Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI 48910. Email: paling@msu.edu, Cell: 517-242-4155.