

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2023

TO: Cooperators in the Michigan State University Forage Variety Trials

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

RE: Invitation for 2023 Alfalfa, Perennial Grass, Red Clover, and Annual Forage Variety Trials



College of  
Agriculture and  
Natural Resources

Department of Plant  
Soil and Microbial  
Sciences

Forage Variety Trials

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East Lansing, MI 48824

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MSU is an affirmative action,  
equal-opportunity employer.

Included are applications for the 2023 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 2 different planting dates are being offered at East Lansing. Entries are invited in the categories of annual grasses and annual clovers to be seeded in the spring and harvested for yield in the summer. 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.

Results are available on the Michigan State University Forage Connections web page at <http://www.forage.msu.edu/publications>. Variety trial results will be distributed through the Michigan State University Extension Service and the Michigan Farm Bureau through the Michigan Farm News.

# MICHIGAN ANNUAL FORAGE VARIETY TRIALS, 2023

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

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station will accept proprietary varieties and experimental strains of annual forages for evaluation under rainfed conditions at East Lansing.

## 1. Description of Trials.

Location: MSU Research Farm, **East Lansing**

Planting dates: two planting dates.

- (1) **Spring (May planting):** Annual/Italian/Intermediate ryegrass, grass, and annual clovers (summer harvest and a following spring harvest of surviving entries). Spring seeded small grains are harvested once for yield or twice if adequate regrowth occurs.
- (2) **Late Summer or September planting:** winter small grains (spring harvest)

Data Collected: Yield

Trials are seeded with either a Carter small plot nursery seeder or a tractor mounted research drill in plots 4 feet wide and at least 20 feet long. A minimum of four replications is used. The trials are harvested for yield by cutting the center 3 feet with a Carter self-propelled forage flail harvester at a time appropriate for optimum yield. All trials are managed for high yield using MSU recommendations for fertility, weed, and pest control under natural rainfall.

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, experimental strains, blends, or mixtures 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 alfalfa 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 per test location may be required to hold a test.
  - (2) There is misrepresentation.
  - (3) Seed arrives too late for planting.
  - (4) Adequate seed is not available.
  - (5) Documentation of species/variety proportion in mixtures and blends is not provided.
4. Entry Fee. **\$300.00** per entry.  
Send applications to:  
Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm, Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan 48910. [Paling@msu.edu](mailto:Paling@msu.edu)

Deadline for Entry. Applications and seed for Spring seeded Tests must be received by Joe Paling by **April 10, 2023**. Applications and seed for Late Summer Tests must be received by Joe Paling by **August 25, 2023**.

5. Seed Required. 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 – 800 g seed	Triticale – 800 g seed
Barley – 800 g seed	Oats – 800 g seed
Rye – 800 g seed	Crabgrass – 400 g seed
Annual Ryegrass – 200 g seed	Teffgrass – 200 g seed
Italian Ryegrass – 200 g seed	
Annual clovers – crimson, berseem, balansa, arrowleaf, Persian – 200 g seed	

For other species and mixtures, contact us for advice before shipping seed.

6. Publication. Each entrant will receive a yearly summary of the data in December, including all released and experimental varieties. The yearly summaries will be published in the January 30th edition of the *Michigan Farm News*. Complete test results will be published by Michigan State University Extension and will be posted on the MSU Forage Connection website <http://www.forage.msu.edu/publications>.
- 7.
8. For assistance, contact Joe Paling at [paling@msu.edu](mailto:paling@msu.edu), cell 517-242-4155, or Kim Cassida at [cassida@msu.edu](mailto:cassida@msu.edu), 517-353-0278.

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

Submit one form for each variety or entry and send to the address below with entry fee of \$300 per entry, location, and planting date. Entries for spring planting date must be received by April 10. Entries for late summer planting date must be received by August 25.

Seed of the following amounts (per location and Planting Date) is required.

Wheat – 800 g seed	Triticale – 800 g seed
Barley – 800 g seed	Oats – 800 g seed
Rye – 800 g seed	Crabgrass – 200 g seed
Annual Ryegrass – 200 g seed	Teffgrass – 200 g seed
Italian Ryegrass – 200 g seed	
Annual clovers – crimson, berseem, balansa, arrowleaf, Persian – 200 g seed	

For other species and mixtures, contact us for advice before shipping seed.

## Marketer *(commercial entries only)*

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## Breeder

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name of entry \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please indicate name desired when data are reported)

4. Brief description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is this a released variety? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Maturity (circle one) Early Medium Medium-late Late

7. Ploidy level (Ryegrass) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Rust Resistance Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. Germination \_\_\_\_\_ Purity \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Test \_\_\_\_\_

## Locations -- \$300.00 per entry per Location and Planting Date combination

East Lansing \_\_\_\_\_ Planting Date: Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Late Summer \_\_\_\_\_

Michigan State University: ATTN: Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm Michigan State University, Lansing, MI 48910. Email: [paling@msu.edu](mailto:paling@msu.edu), Cell: 517-242-4155.