

# 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

1066 Bogue Street  
A286 Plant and Soil Sciences  
East Lansing, MI 48824

517-355-0271  
Fax: 517-353-3515  
psm.msu.edu

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 PERENNIAL GRASS 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 perennial forage grasses for evaluation at two locations in 2023. The trials are intensively managed for high yield under high fertility, utilizing all factors to maximize yield under natural rainfall.

1. Locations for 2023:

- (1) MSU Research Farm at **East Lansing**. Trials are managed using a three-cut system from late May through October.
- (2) MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center at **Chatham**, approximately 300 miles north of East Lansing. Chatham has cold winters with deep snow cover. Winter-hardiness and persistence are important at Chatham. Chatham grass trials are managed for two cuttings from June to October.

2. Description of Trials: Trials are seeded with six-inch row spacing in plots 5 feet wide and at least 18 feet long (generally 20-23 feet). The center 3 feet will be harvested for yield with a Carter self-propelled forage flail harvester. A minimum of four replications will be used. Grasses are managed for maximum yield under rainfed conditions with fertility and pest control according to MSU recommendations.

Standard procedures for determining dry matter yield are used. Plots will be harvested for at least three years after the seeding year unless stands are injured by uncontrollable causes. Preferably, grasses will be seeded in the spring and harvested at least once in the seeding year. Seeding may be delayed until late July or early August to achieve best results in stand establishment, in which case seeding year harvests may not be taken. Grass heading dates in first cutting are recorded at East Lansing and are determined to be the date when 50% of reproductive tillers have fully emerged heads.

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 grass varieties, other Agricultural Experiment Stations, non-profit groups, farmer cooperatives, or individuals.

3. Rejection. Any entry may be rejected if:

- The trial is cancelled. A minimum of 10 paid entries (excluding check varieties) will be required to hold a test at a location.
- There is misrepresentation.
- Seed arrives too late for planting.
- Adequate seed is not available.
- Seed is a blend.

4. Entry Fee. \$600.00 per variety per test location entered.

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 must be received by Joe Paling by **April 10, 2023**. Seed should be in the possession of Joe Paling by **April 28, 2028**.

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 seed weights per trial apply:

Fescues – 200 g seed

Orchardgrass – 200 g seed

Perennial Ryegrass – 200 g seed

Festulolium – 300 g seed

Bromegrasses – 300 g seed

Timothy – 100 g seed

For other species, contact us for instructions before sending seed.

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>.

6. For assistance, contact Joe Paling at [paling@msu.edu](mailto:paling@msu.edu), cell 517-242-4155, or Dr. Kim Cassida at [cassida@msu.edu](mailto:cassida@msu.edu), 517-353-0278.

# MICHIGAN 2023 PERENNIAL FORAGE GRASS VARIETY TRIALS

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 by April 10, 2023. Seed of the following amounts (per location) should be received by April 28, 2023.

Fescues – 200 g seed  
Perennial Ryegrass – 200 g seed  
Brome-grasses – 300 g seed  
Orchardgrass – 200 g seed  
Festulolium – 300 g seed  
Timothy – 100 g seed

For other species or mixtures, contact us for instructions before sending seed.

1. Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a paper copy of the results, in addition to the Excel file that is sent via email? Yes No

2. Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name or number of entry \_\_\_\_\_

(Please indicate name desired when data are reported)

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

Is this a released variety? Yes No If, Yes: Marketer in Michigan \_\_\_\_\_

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

6. Ploidy level, Perennial Ryegrass \_\_\_\_\_

7. Rust Resistance (Ryegrass and Orchardgrass) Yes No

Germination % _____	<b>Locations</b>
Date of test _____	East Lansing \$600.00 _____
Purity _____	Chatham \$600.00 _____
Number of locations _____	* \$600.00 = _____

**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.