

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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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 RED CLOVER VARIETY TRIALS, 2023

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

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station will accept proprietary varieties and experimental strains of red clover for evaluation at East Lansing in 2023.

1. Location. Michigan State University Research Farm at East Lansing. Trials are intensively managed for high yields with high fertility.
2. Description of Trials. Trials are seeded with a five-row nursery seeder with six-inch spaces between rows in plots 3 feet wide and at least 20 feet long (generally 22-25 feet). A minimum of four replications is used. Plots are harvested with a Carter self-propelled forage flail harvester.

Standard procedures for determining dry matter yield are used. Plots will be harvested for at least two years after the seeding year unless stands are injured by uncontrollable causes. Preferably, red clover will be seeded in the spring and harvested one or two times in the seeding year. Seeding may be delayed until late July or early August to achieve best results in stand establishment. Post-emergence herbicides may be used for weed control during the establishment year.

Data on stand longevity, disease reaction, and maturity will be obtained when appropriate. 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.

3. 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 red clover varieties, other Agricultural Experiment Stations, non-profit groups, farmer cooperatives, or individuals.
4. Rejection. Any entry may be rejected if:
 - (1) The trial is cancelled. A minimum of 8 paid entries (excluding check varieties) will be required.
 - (2) There is misrepresentation.
 - (3) Seed arrives too late for planting.
 - (4) Adequate seed is not available.
 - (5) Seed is a blend.

5. Entry Fee.
Yield comparisons at East Lansing, \$480.00 per entry.

Make checks payable to Michigan State University/Forage and send to
Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, PSM Agronomy Farm, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI 48910.

6. Deadline for Entry.

The applications must be in the possession of Dr. Kim Cassida (517) 353-0278 Cassida@msu.edu or Joe Paling Paling@msu.edu, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences by April 10, 2023.

7. Seed Required. Seed should be received by April 28, 2023. Arrangements may be made with MSU to deliver commercial seed through local dealers, distributors, or other sources.
8. Released varieties: 200 grams of seed per entry.
Experimentals: 100 grams is adequate.
Seed treated with a fungicide will be accepted. Seed will be inoculated with Rhizobium at MSU prior to planting.
9. 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 the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station or the Michigan State University Extension Service and will be posted on the MSU Forage Connection website <http://www.forage.msu.edu/publications>.

