**A close-up of a paper

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**MICHIGAN ANNUAL FORAGE VARIETY TRIALS, 2025**

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| James DeDecker  Michigan State University  Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center  E3774 University Dr.  Chatham, MI 49816 | Kim Cassida  Michigan State University  Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences  1066 Bogue Street, Plant and Soil Science Building  East Lansing, MI 48824 |

Michigan State University will accept proprietary varieties and experimental strains of annual forages for evaluation under rainfed conditions at East Lansing and Chatham.

1. Description of Trials.

Location: Michigan State University Agronomy Farm, **East Lansing, Michigan**

Planting dates: Three planting dates.

1. **Spring (May planting)**: Annual/Italian/Intermediate ryegrass and other annual grasses, (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 Spring (Early June planting)**: Sudangrass, Sorghum x Sudangrass, Forage Sorghum planted and harvested 1 or 2 times.
3. **Late Summer or September planting**: winter small grains (spring harvest)

Location: MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, **Chatham, Michigan**

Planting dates: Two planting dates.

1. **Spring (May planting)**: Annual/Italian/Intermediate ryegrass and other annual grasses, (summer harvest and a following spring harvest of surviving entries).

Spring seeded small grains (harvested once for yield or twice if adequate regrowth occurs).

1. **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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Entry Fee. **$300.00** per entry.

Applications and seed may be sent to: Checks payable to Michigan State University Forage Testing

James DeDecker, Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center,

E3774 University Drive, PO Box 168, Chatham, MI 49816 [dedecke5@msu.edu](mailto:dedecke5@msu.edu)

**or**

Joe Paling, 4450 Beaumont Rd, Michigan State University Agronomy Farm, Lansing, Michigan 48910

[paling@msu.edu](mailto:paling@msu.edu)

Deadline for Entry. Applications and seed for Spring seeded Tests should be received by **April 26, 2024**. Applications and seed for Late Summer Tests should be received by **August** **30, 2024**.

1. 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:

Annual Grass – Multiple-cut Trial, East Lansing or Chatham

Ryegrass (Annual, Italian, or Intermediate) – 200 g seed per location

Teffgrass – 100 g seed per location

Crabgrass – 100 g seed per location

Spring Seeded Small Grain Forages – Single-cut trials, Chatham

Barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale – 600 grams per entry per location

Warm Season Grass – Multiple-cut Trial, East Lansing

Sudangrass, Sorghum x Sudangrass, Forage Sorghum – 200 g seed

Winter Small Grain Forage – Late Summer seedings, East Lansing or Chatham

Wheat, Triticale, Rye, Hybrid Rye, Barley – 600 g seed per entry per location

1. 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.](http://www.forage.msu.edu/publications)
2. For assistance, contact James DeDecker [dedecke5@msu.edu](mailto:dedecke5@msu.edu), 906-439-5114, or Christian Kapp [kappchri@msu.edu](mailto:kappchri@msu.edu) at Chatham. Kim Cassida [cassida@msu.edu](about:blank), 517-353-0278, or Joe Paling [paling@msu.edu](about:blank) at East Lansing.

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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 should be received by April 26. Entries for late summer planting date should be received by August 30.

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

Annual Forages – Late Spring/early summer seeding

Ryegrass (Annual, Italian, or Intermediate) – 200 g seed, Crabgrass – 100 g seed, Teffgrass – 100 g seed

Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Hybrid Rye, Triticale – 600 grams per entry per location

Sudangrass, Sorghum x Sudangrass, Forage Sorghum – 200 g seed

Winter Small Grain Forage – Late Summer seedings

Wheat, Barley, Rye, Hybrid Rye, Triticale – 600 grams per entry per location

**Marketer** *(commercial entries only)* **Breeder**

Company

Company

Contact

Contact

Address

Address

City, State ZIP

City, State ZIP

Phone/FAX

Phone/FAX

E-Mail address

E-Mail address

1. Name of entry

(Please indicate name desired when data are reported)

1. Brief description \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Is this a released variety? Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Maturity (circle one) Early Medium Medium-late Late
3. Ploidy level (Ryegrass)
4. Rust Resistance Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Germination \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Purity \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Test \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Locations -- $300.00 per entry per Location and Planting Date combination**

Chatham \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Planting Date: Spring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Michigan State University**: Kim Cassida at [cassida@msu.edu](about:blank), 517-353-0278 or James DeDecker at [dedecke5@msu.edu](mailto:dedecke5@msu.edu), 906-439-5114.