

Oats

Technical Sheet

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Oats are an annual plant, and can be planted either in autumn (for late summer harvest) in areas having mild winter climates or in the spring (for early autumn harvest).

An early start is crucial to good yields, as oats go dormant in summer heat.

Oats are a nutritious feed for all classes of livestock. Oats can be grazed a while, then allowed to head out for grain production, or grazed continuously until other pastures are ready.

The flowers are hermaphrodite (have both male and female organs) and are pollinated by wind. The plant is self-fertile.

Suitable for: light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils, prefers well-drained soil and can grow in heavy clay and nutritionally poor soils. Suitable pH: acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils and can grow in very acid soils. It cannot grow in the shade. It prefers dry or moist soil and can tolerate drought.

Oats remove substantial amounts of nitrogen from the soil.

Oats is often used as a nurse crop which helps in erosion control for new plantings.

SEEDING RATE

3 bu. / acre for harvest
48 - 60 lb. / acre for forage



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