



Browntop millet (*Urochloa ramosa*)

Browntop millet is a fast growing cover crop that can mature in 45 days or less. While it is relatively short in height, it does provide good cover when planted in the spring. It does not fit well after corn harvest because when planted late, it produces a seed head quickly and does not produce good biomass. Due to this it may not fit well in row crop production systems. It is a good cover crop for quail, but be sure to check with your state’s wildlife resources department on how hunting regulations may effect planting and management.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Common millet	Variety not specified, normally the seed available.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	1/2 - 3/4	USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	14 - 20	USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	25 - 30	USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	Not recommended.	

Termination Information

Information	Source
Browntop millet can be terminated by mowing after it has headed out, herbicides, and tilling.	
Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	2,000 - 6,000	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data, USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	0	
Life Cycle	Annual warm-season grass	USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide
Growth Habit	Upright	
Preferred Soil pH	5.5 - 6.5	USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	52°	Green Cover Seeds
Cautions	Fast growing and sets seeds quickly. Can become a weed if not managed properly. Can accumulate nitrate under drought conditions which can pose problems for grazing. Check with your state’s wildlife resources department on how hunting regulations may effect planting and management.	

Sources:

Green Cover Seeds: <https://www.greencoverseed.com>

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_022076

USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide: https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_urra.pdf