

Pearl Millet is a warm season annual normally associated with adaptation to sandy/acid soils. However, this grain can be grown successfully in the clay soils of the Blacklands. Taller varieties produce more biomass than dwarf types. It can be grazed, and so fits into dual use systems. It is a 'low input' crop, similar to sorghum, requiring less fertilizer inputs than other warm season covers. Pearl Millet is known for its adaptation to low water and high temperature growing conditions.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Tifleaf	Performed well in recent Blacklands trials, especially in no-till systems.	Texas A&M AgriLife

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (Inches)	0.5"	
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	10-15	Texas A&M AgriLife
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	25-30	Texas A&M AgriLife
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	N/A	Not Recommended

Termination Information

Information	Source
Pearl millet can be terminated by mowing, herbicides* or tillage. It will winterkill but not before it sets seeds.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data Texas A&M AgriLife
Pearl millet is photosensitive and will quickly go to seed even if planted late in the summer. Pearl millet is attractive to migrating birds.	
*Always follow herbicide labels for crop to be terminated and for compatibility with subsequent crop(s). Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations.	

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Cultural Traits

Traits	Comments		Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	1,500-3,000		Texas A&M AgriLife
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	Negligible if grazed or cut	Greater biomass yields can be expected to cause a decrease in N use efficiency for the following cool season cash crop.	
Life Cycle	Warm season annual grain / grass.		
Growth Habit	Upright		
Preferred Soil pH	5.5-7.5	Tolerant of low pH soils	
Relative Costs	\$-\$\$		Personal Communications
Min. Germination Temp	65°F		
Cautions		Nitrate toxicity can occur if grazing. Prussic acid poisoning not an issue.	Texas A&M AgriLife

Sources:

Texas A&M AgriLife:

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/ranching/warm-season-annual-forage-grasses-for-texas/>

<https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2012/07/Milletts-for-NM-West-TX-2012-A-417.pdf>

Personal Communications with Blackland Farmers and Seed Suppliers.