



Browntop millet (*Urochloa ramosa*)

Browntop millet is a fast-growing cover crop that can mature in 45 days or less. It only produces 60 to 70% of the biomass of pearl millet or a sorghum x sudan hybrid; consequently, it may not fit well into grazing systems. It provides good cover when planted in the spring, but does not produce good biomass in the fall. 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 affect 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 Not recommended	USDA Browntop Millet Plant Guide

Termination Information

Information	Source
Browntop millet can be terminated by heavy grazing. It can also 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. Growing season is about 60 days. 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.	

Forage Traits

Information	Source
Browntop typically produces only 60 - 70% of the dry matter of pearl millet or sorghum x sudan hybrids, so it is generally not recommended in Georgia as a forage crop. Browntop millet is a nitrate accumulating crop.	UGA Forages

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

UGA Forages: <https://georgiaforages.caes.uga.edu/species-and-varieties/warm-season/browntop-millet.html>