



Wheat does not produce as much biomass as cereal rye, triticale, or oats, but it can be a good place to start. It can provide grazing during the late fall (some varieties), winter, and early spring. Seed costs are typically low and for some that is a deciding factor. You should use tested seeds to make sure you are not planting noxious weeds and your germination rate is adequate. Bin run seed may not be tested, so buyer beware.

Recommended Varieties

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
AGS 2024, Pioneer 26R10 and Pioneer 26R41	Recommended for forage.	UGA Forages. UGA Statewide Variety Trials.
Croplan SRW 8340	Produces well in the mountains	NCSU

Planting Information

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches) ½ - 1 ½		Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre) 60 - 120		Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre) 60 – 150	Not recommended for overseeding dormant pastures.	Managing Cover Crops Profitably

Termination Information

Information	Source
Wheat can be terminated by heavy grazing. Wheat can be terminated by mowing, rolling & crimping, herbicides, tillage, and combinations of these practices. Termination timing depends on goals. Herbicide or tillage should be conducted before seed matures.	Managing Cover Crop Profitably
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)	3,000 - 6,000	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)		
Life Cycle	Cool season annual grain	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Growth Habit	Upright	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Preferred Soil pH	5.5 - 7.5	Not as tolerant of soil acidity as cereal rye. Georgia Forages, Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	38°	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Cautions	Consider feeding a high magnesium mineral when grazing. Cool season grasses and grains can contain inadequate levels of magnesium in early spring, which can result in grass tetany.	

Forage Traits

Information	Source
Wheat provides good forage quality in late fall (some varieties), early winter, and spring and is well-suited to grazing or silage. For ensiling, cut wheat in late boot to early bloom stage of growth.	UGA Forages Virginia Cooperative Extension
If planted for grain production and grazing, it is critical that the animals are not allowed to graze the growing point. Remove animals before wheat starts to joint.	

Sources:

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>

Virginia Cooperative Extension: <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/DASC/DASC-93/DASC-93.html>

UGA Forages: <https://georgiaforages.caes.uga.edu/species-and-varieties/cool-season/wheat.html>

UGA Statewide Variety Trials: <https://swvt.uga.edu/> Note: recommended varieties change periodically based on new data.