

Of the millet varieties, this is the best choice for grazing systems. There is a difference between grain and forage varieties in terms of biomass. In general, forage varieties are better for cover crops, particularly in grazing systems. Dwarf, low-growing millets can be excellent forage sources as well. Although brown midrib (BMR) pearl millets are currently available, they have not been assessed for forage yield or quality potential. The BMR varieties may be more susceptible to disease.

**Recommended Varieties**

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Tifleaf 3	Early maturing variety with good biomass. 70 – 75 days to maturity.	UGA Forages
SS-635	Forage variety that has performed well in Georgia forage variety trials.	UGA Forages
Prime 180, Leafy 22	Forage pearl millets that have performed well at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center. Prime 180 is brown midrib dwarf variety and has a lower lignin content.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data

**Planting Information**

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	¼ - ¾	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	10 - 12	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	12 - 15 Check with your state’s wildlife resources department to ensure compliance with dove hunting regulations if fields will be hunted.	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool

**Termination Information**

Information	Source
Pearl millet can be terminated by heavy grazing. Pearl millet can also be terminated by mowing, herbicide, or tillage.	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool; Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data
It will winterkill, but not before it sets seeds. Pearl millet is photosensitive and will quickly go to seed even if planted late in the summer.	
Pearl millet is attractive to migrating birds. Check with your state’s wildlife resources department to ensure compliance with dove hunting regulations if fields will be hunted.	
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)	5,000 - 15,000	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	0	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Life Cycle	Summer annual grass	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Growth Habit	Upright	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Preferred Soil pH	5.5 - 6.5	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	65°	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Cautions	Drought conditions, high temperatures, and/or high nitrogen applications can cause nitrate accumulation that is dangerous for grazing. Check with your state's wildlife resources department to ensure compliance with dove hunting regulations if fields will be hunted.	

**Forage Traits**

Information	Source
<p>Pearl millet can be grazed or harvested as hay, baleage, or silage. Millet produces good quality forage if harvested before advance maturity stage. Grazing should begin when plants are still vegetative and 20-24 inches height, leaving a 9-12-inch stubble for optimal regrowth. Harvest at boot stage to maximize yield without penalizing quality. Drying rate of millet hay can be sped up using a roller/crimper-style conditioner.</p> <p>Because millet is most productive during the first 60 days after establishment, forage supply can be evened out over the summer by staggering plantings. Pearl millet does not produce prussic acid, however, can have high nitrate levels.</p> <p>If crops are grazed instead of harvested as grain, check that all pesticides applied to the crop are labeled for grazing livestock.</p>	UGA Forages

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# Pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*)

### Sources:

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_022076](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_022076)

Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool - Missouri Data: <http://mccc.msu.edu/covercroptool/infosheet.php>

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