



# New Seed Varieties & You

*“There is magic in the old and magic in the new;  
the trick is to successfully combine the two”*

*– A.D. Posey*



## Species & Variety What's The Difference?

- Species – a unique family of genetics
- Variety – unique member of a species
- Member similarity can vary significantly
- Be careful about broad conclusions

# Define Your Objectives

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- Desired Results
  - N fixation
  - Increase pollinators
  - Breakup hardpan
  - Sweeten Soil
  - Boost biology
  - Graze
- Variety = Objective?



# Define Your Limitations

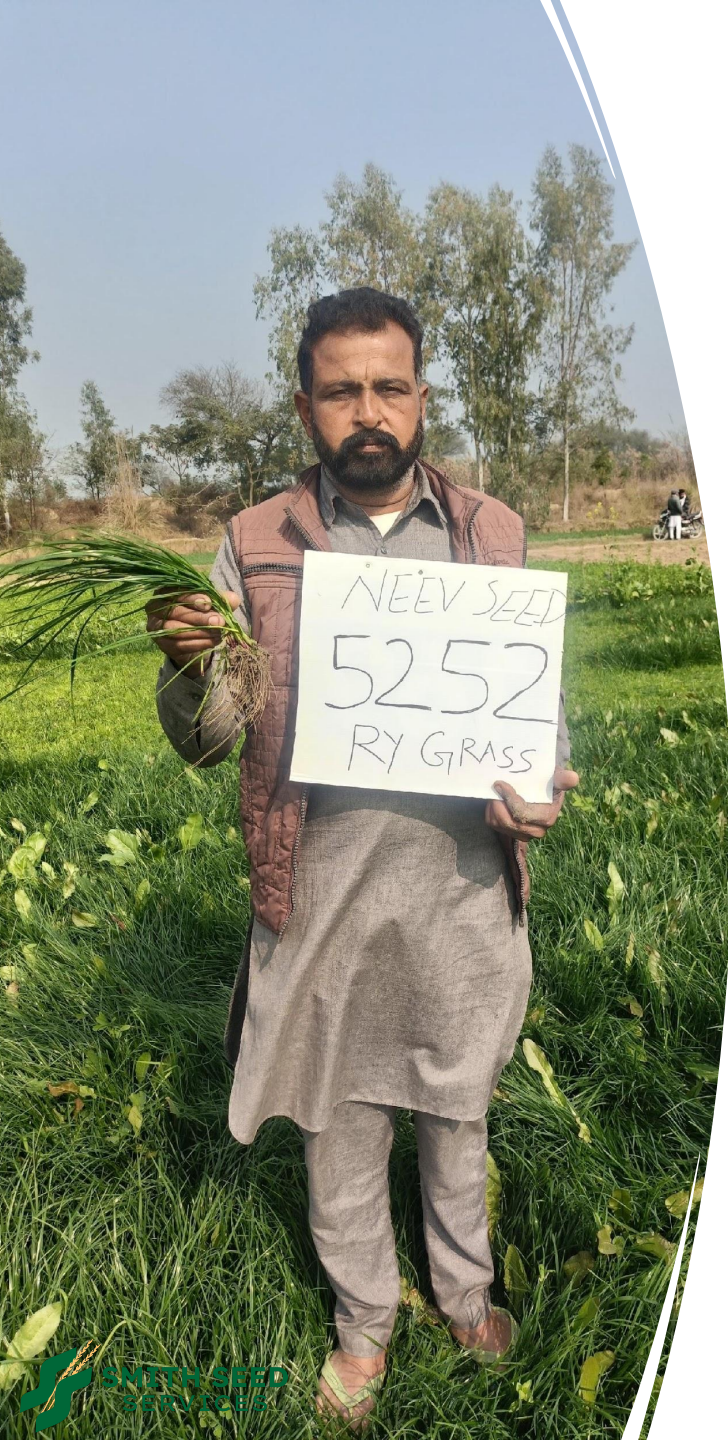
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- Known Limitations
  - Planting method
  - Planting date
  - Termination date/method
- Possible Limitations
  - Weather
  - Moisture
  - Fertility levels
  - Herbicide residual
  - Seed availability/price
- New Variety  $\geq$  Limitations?



# Learn Abroad, Apply at Home

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- Get Schooled!
  - Trusted experts, industry, research
  - Passionate people, friends
  - Seminars, field days
  - Ask questions, AI
- Become an **expert** about **your** farm
  - No lazy evaluations allowed
  - Ask questions

# Include a Check Variety

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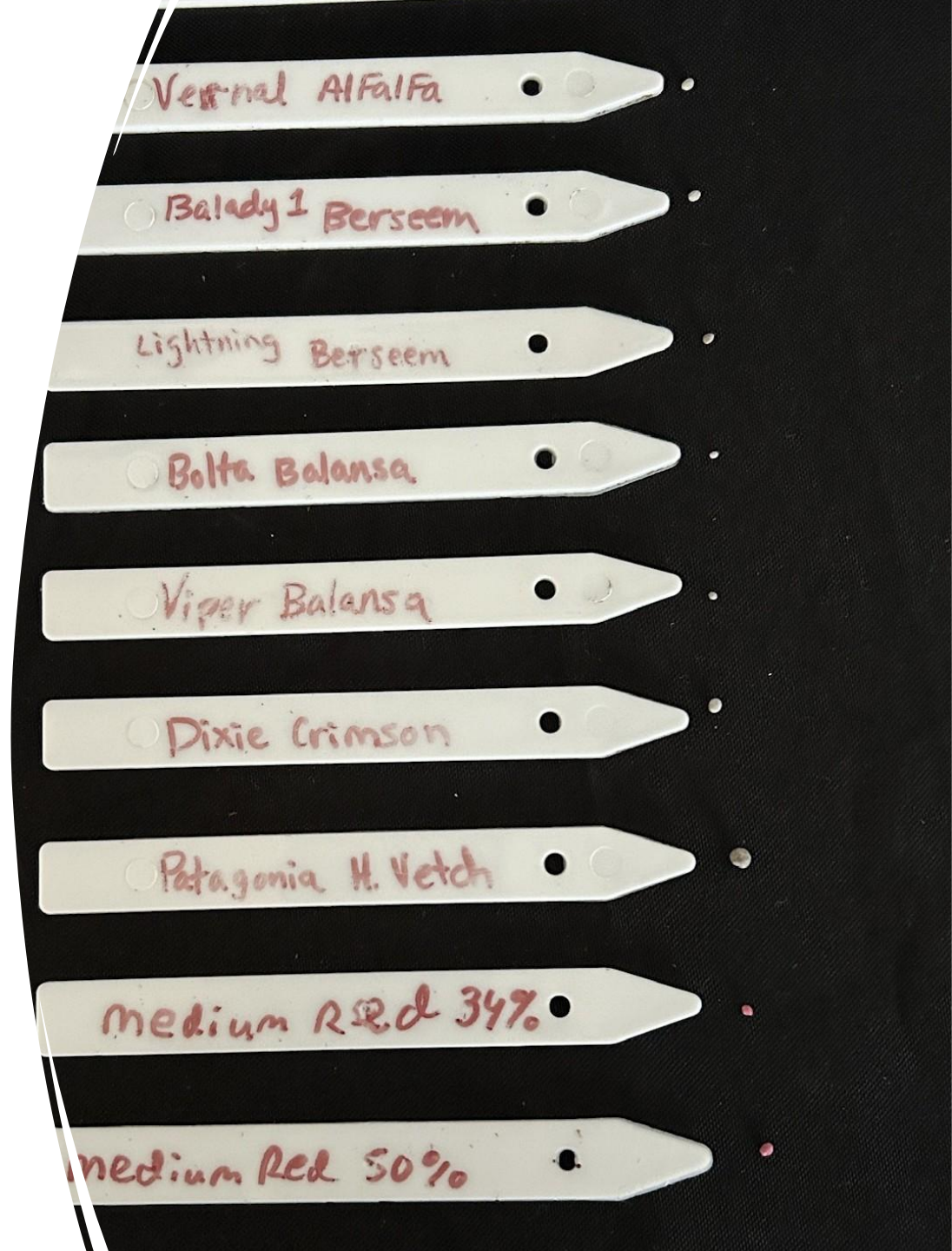
- Newbies:
  - Plant something multiple sources say will succeed.
  - Plant small
- Old timers:
  - Always plant your proven winner.
  - This becomes your "Check" variety.



# Plant It Correctly

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- Buy good quality seed
- Buy from good sources
- Properly inoculate
- Prepare the ground
- Seed size matters
  - Method
  - Depth
  - Rate





**Duplicate  
Duplicate  
Duplicate**

- Three replications
- Two or more unique spots
- Two different dates
- Always compare to check variety

# Plant Small, Discover Big

- Small plots & bucket studies
- Easy germination check
- Learn about plant structures
- Dig into the roots



*“Study the plant to understand the variety”*



## Germination & Establishment

- Germination
  - Plant came out of seed.
  - Seed was viable
- Establishment
  - Plant grew and rooted
  - Initially adapted to its environment

# Document Your Journey

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- Log Key Data
  - Variety and lot number
  - Planting dates/method
  - Germination
  - Establishment/coverage
  - Yield/performance
  - Termination
  - Wow moments



# Favorite Tools

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- Tools
  - Phone
  - Small shovel
  - Notepad/pen
  - Tape measure
- Burn it in
  - Discuss with other
  - Show your photos





# Observe & Learn!

- Establishment speed
- Plant structure/top growth
- Root structure
- Compatibility
- Reproductive timing
- Termination ease

# Evaluate Properly

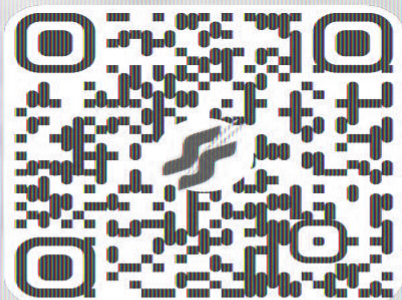
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- Meet your objective?
- Compare against check
- Extenuating circumstances
- What surprised you?



## Cover Crop Varieties

Variety information with trial results and tips for planting, management & termination.



## Legume Bucket Study Videos

Closeup videos of root and shoot development in clovers, vetches & alfalfa over 167 days.



## Cover Res

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highligh  
cover cr



# Additional Resources

**45+ FREE cover crop videos  
dozens on other crops**



**Jonathan Rupert**  
Marketing Development Manager

☎ 614-519-7843  
☎ 458-285-5000  
✉ [jrupert@smithseed.com](mailto:jrupert@smithseed.com)  
# [smithseed.com](https://www.smithseed.com)

**Local Office**  
106 Upper Trestles Ave.  
Summerville, SC 29483

**Oregon Office**  
26890 Powerline Road  
P.O. Box 288  
Halsey, OR 97348

