SPRING BARLEY

HORDEUM VULGARE - COOL SEASON ANNUAL GRASS

PRODUCTION GOALS

Not Effective — Very Effective

Quick Growth	
Lasting Residue	
Soil Builder	
Nitrogen Fixation	n/a
Nitrogen Scavenging	
Erosion Reduction	
Compaction Reduction	
Biofumigation Potential	
Weed Suppression	
Forage Harvest Value	
Grain Harvest Value	

Spring barley can produce high levels of biomass and can be used as a cover crop, forage, brought to maturity for grain or plow down. It is often used in multispecies mixes for silage and tolerates alkalinity. Spring and winter barley are the same species but spring barley varieties are generally not as cold tolerant but do not require a cold period to flower.

TOLERANCES

Flood	
Heat	
Drought	
Shade	
Low Fertility	
Salinity	
Optimal pH	6.0 - 8.5

SOIL DRAINAGE CLASS

Very Well	
Well	■
Moderately Well	■
Somewhat Poor	
Poorly	
Very Poorly	

AREA & ADAPTABILITY

Spring barley is a suitable spring seeded annual for all regions of British Columbia. It is able to tolerate a wide range of conditions making it suitable for many field locations and soil types.

Winter Hardiness Zone - 9

Seeding Considerations

Rate Drilled	Rate Broadcast	Depth	Frost Seeding	Minimum Germination Temperature	Seeds #
50-125 lbs/ac (560-140 kg/ha)	80-150 lbs/ac (90-168 kg/ha)	0.75-2 in (2-5 cm)	No	3°C (38°F)	6170 /lb (13,600) /kg

Management Considerations

A range of barley varieties are available with characteristics including 2 or 6 kernel row, smooth or rough awns and various expected growth heights from semi-dwarf to tall.

Cereals can accumulate nitrates after a period of stress (e.g. drought or killing frost) and/or high nitrate levels in the soil and should be tested before feed out. Moreover, smooth awn varieties may be preferably to improve palatability for livestock.

Inter-seeding Potential ▮▮▮▮▯

Volunteer Establishment ▮▮▮▮▯

Nitrogen Concentration 1.2 - 4.3%

Dry Matter Yield

700 - 6000 lbs/acre

784 - 6720 kg/ha

Termination

Spring barley can be terminated by tillage, mowing after stem elongation, and chemical means. It will also winterkill in the majority of the province and provide good winterkilled mulch.

References

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