

2018 Cool-Season Forage Demonstration

2018 Pasture Management Series

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Cool-season forages are a useful management tool that can be used to provide nutrients to livestock during the winter months. These forages can be used to bridge the nutritional deficiencies that often occur prior to spring green-up. Two sites (one located in NW and the second in SW St. Johns County) were used to evaluate forage varieties that are used in both livestock and wildlife management strategies. Due to excessive rainfall that resulted in mild flooding at the SW St. Johns County site, it was determined that forage growth was inconsistent and therefore deemed unusable for demonstration purposes. However, the NW St. Johns County site, situated in an area less prone to flooding, was successful and provided an evaluation and hands-on producer and county faculty access to newly developed cool-season winter forage crops.

Cool-season forages for use on livestock operations benefit the producer in providing

1. highly nutritional greenchop or silage crop for livestock,
2. winter cover to provide erosion and leaching protection on cultivated acreage,
3. potentially recycle nutrients or remove significant nutrients from the forage system, and
4. serve as a sentinel plots to help identify new or emerging pest problems related to forage production.

On February 17, 2018, a field day was held at Needmore Land & Cattle Company. This field day was designed to provide interested participants an opportunity to see how different forages grow in NW St. Johns County. Dr. Marcelo Wallau, UF/IFAS Extension Forage Specialist, provided specific agronomic insight to participants while conducting a plot walk. Procedures for planting and a plot layout are provided below. A follow-up discussion was conducted on the farm on February 26 to provide information to participants who were unable to attend the previous workshop.

Procedures used to plant these plots include:

- Seed was obtained from the University of Florida in early November,
- Site was soil tested on November 17, 2017 and pH was 5.3,
- Assistance from the Staff from the Hastings Agricultural Extension Center included:
 - November 20, 2017, calibrating a no-till drill for each variety of seed,
 - November 22, 2017, transporting equipment and plots were planted using the no-till drill
 - December 19, 2017, calibrating and applying 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre to ½ of each plot.

2018 Cool-Season Forage Variety Demonstration Plot Map

Needmore Land & Cattle Company

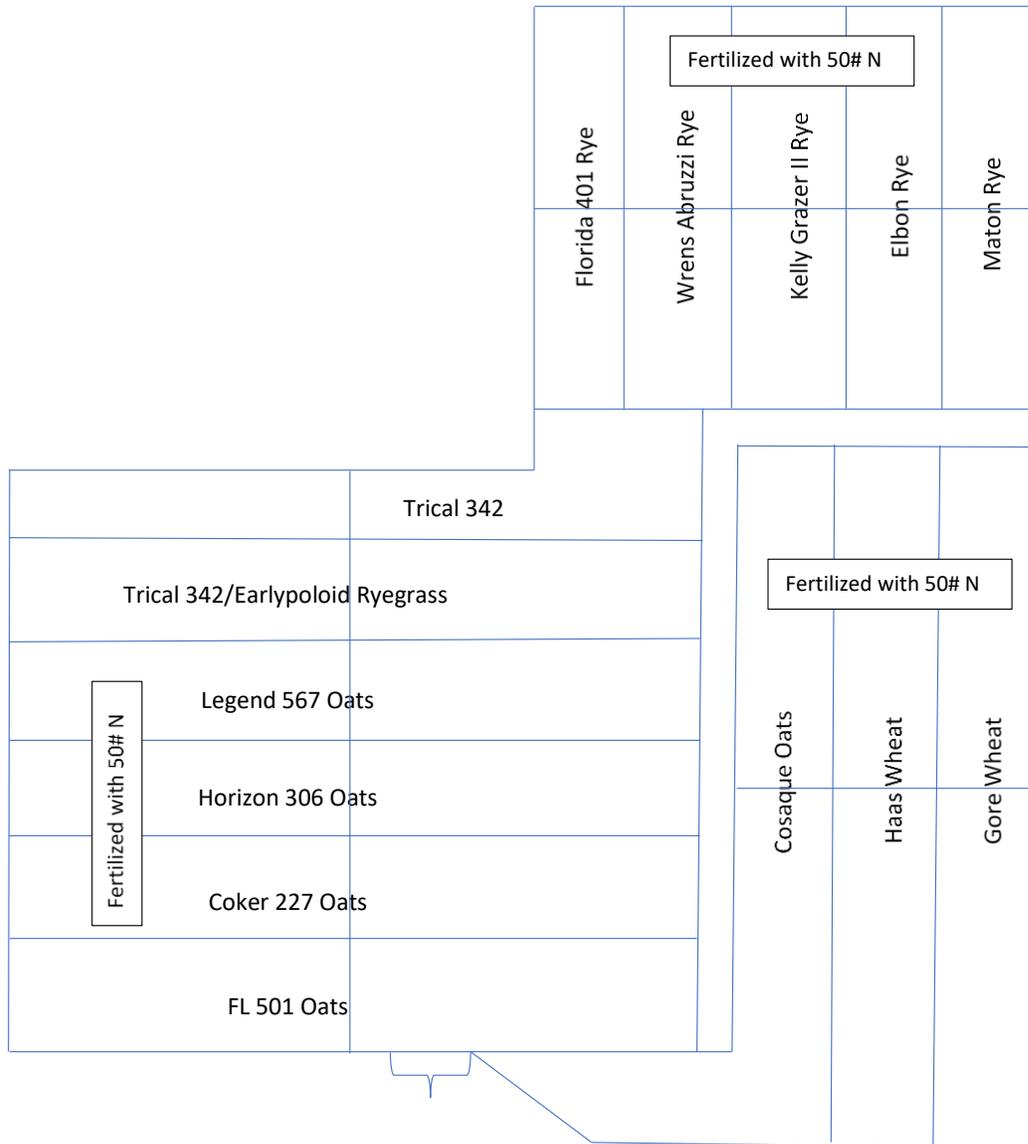




Figure 1. Calibrating a no-till drill



Figure 2. Planting seed using a no-till drill



Figure 3. Legend 567 Oats



Figure 4. Discussion on forages led by Dr. Marcelo Wallau



Figure 5. Field discussion on forage varieties

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