

GRITS

FORAGE ANNUAL RYEGRASS



FORAGE

- Extensively Tested, Proven Performer
- Consistent High Forage Yields
- Early/Medium Maturity
- Rust Resistant
- Gray Leaf Spot Resistant

COVER CROP

- Captures Residual Nitrogen
- Increases Water Infiltration and Soil Moisture Holding Capacity
- Helps Prevent Soil Erosion
- Helps Increase Soil Organic Profile

BACKGROUND

Dr. Gordon Prine, ryegrass breeder for Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, developed GRITS diploid annual ryegrass under the experimental designation FLX2002(LA3)LRCT. Classified as a genetic mixture of Italian and Westerwold types, GRITS is described as an early/mid maturing variety developed primarily for crown rust and gray leaf spot resistance with secondary emphasis on cold tolerance.

APPLICATION

GRITS is an aggressive producer of short-term forage, suitable for both beef and dairy. When used as a cover crop or buffer strip, GRITS provides many positive economic and environmental benefits.

FORAGE:

As a short-term forage, GRITS is suitable for hay, silage, green chop and intensive grazing. GRITS would be considered a true southern winter overseed/interseed forage for dormant or producing pastures. GRITS produces a highly palatable forage and has consistently risen to the top in Southern forage trials. For grazing, wait till GRITS reaches 8-12 inches before introducing animals. Animals should be removed when GRITS is reduced to 3-4 inches. For hay, cut to 2-4 inches when GRITS reaches a height of 8-12 inches.

SEEDING RATE:

18-25 lbs/acre drilled, 20-30 lbs/acre broadcast

COVER CROP:

Annual ryegrass, such as GRITS, is proving to be a more suitable cover crop than wheat or cereal rye when followed by no-till corn and soybeans. In a three-year University of Illinois cover crop trial, GRITS was at the top of the trial for root depth. For no-till corn and soybean farmers, greater root penetration improves soil structure and increases organic matter thus forging the way for corn and soybeans to mine moisture and nutrients from a greater soil profile. This leads to improved yields, particularly in times of drought. In addition, researchers from the Dept of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State University discovered that annual ryegrass, such as GRITS reduces soybean cyst nematode egg populations by 30-50 percent.

BUFFER STRIPS:

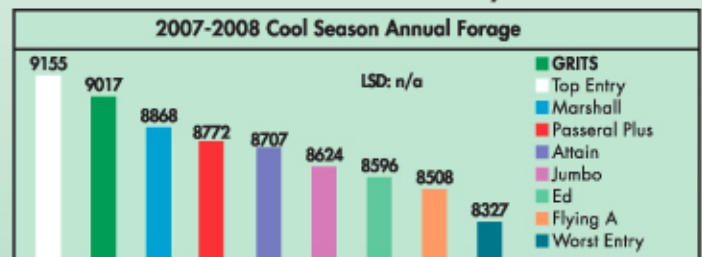
Annual ryegrass, such as GRITS, can also play an important role in properly functioning buffer strips. According to research information compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture, properly installed, well maintained buffers help:

- Reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff into water bodies by 50 percent or more
- Reduce sediment loadings by 75 percent
- Reduce pathogen loadings by 60 percent



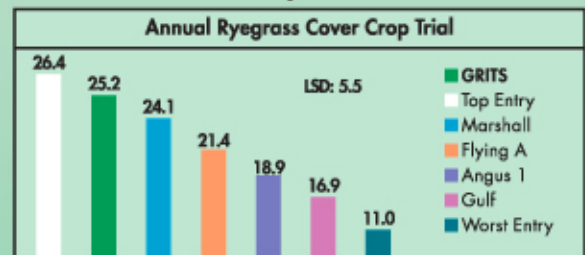
P.O. Box 100 • 31810 Fayetteville Drive • Shedd, Oregon 97377 • PH: 541.491.3700 • FAX: 541.491.3705

Louisiana State University



NOTE: This Table is a 3-year mean. Varieties that rank consistently high over a period of time as opposed to one year should be given top consideration when making planting decisions.

University of Illinois



NOTE: Greater root penetration improves soil structure and increases organic matter, thus improving yields for corn and soybeans, particularly in times of drought.

Crown Rust Resistance

2007 - 2008 • Beaumont, TX			2006 - 2007 • Gainesville, FL		
	Crown Rust	Lbs / Acre		Crown Rust	Total Seasonal lbs
GRITS	0.0	4,427	Top Entry	1.63	12,299
Jumbo	0.0	4,423	Jumbo	1.88	13,066
ED	0.0	4,358	GRITS	3.00	12,278
Flying A	0.3	4,423	ED	3.38	11,606
Gulf	0.3	3,705	Gulf	4.50	10,509
Marshall	3.7	3,214	Flying A	6.38	10,765
Worst Entry (2)	4.0	n/a	Marshall	7.63	13,145
LSD	2.1	564	LSD	1.27	1397

Crown Rust Rating based on a 0-9 scale
0 = no disease

NOTE: Crown Rust is a serious disease that can affect yield, palatability and forage quality. Therefore it is important to select varieties for both high yield and crown rust resistance.