



Boom Boom by Ernest Weaver Mar 2017 DNL

Summer Annuals: Thinking Outside the Box by Ernest Weaver

Why summer annuals?

- **Because there is SUMMER!**
- **High QUALITY forage**
- **Explosive YIELDS**
- **Great SOIL BUILDERS**
- **Abundant FLEXIBILITY.**

Summer is the time when the cool season plants that we like so well, just aren't growing much. Summer annuals can take advantage of these times and thrive.

Quality - Thanks to aggressive breeding, BMR mutations and Brachytic Dwarfism, Byron Seeds has a complete family of sorghum forages that when managed well, will give loads of very digestible and high energy fiber. Our 21st century summer annuals are the answer to (1) maintaining healthy rumens in high-producing milk cows, (2) developing large, efficient rumens in growing heifers, (3) supplying a key part of the equation for forage-finished beef, and (4) providing powerful maintenance for brood cows over winter.

Yield - In the few months between corn planting and corn harvest, you can grow and harvest lush tons of sweet forage from rapid growing, immature plants. With forage sorghums, you can have a one-cut harvest—with yields that rival corn silage. With sudan grass hybrids, you can make three or four cuttings that far exceed alfalfa fields during the summer. And similarly, you can use sorghum/sudans in either a one-cut or multiple-cut strategy to maximize forage production per acre.

Soil Builders - Properly fertilized summer annuals produce a boatload of sugary roots that stimulate and feed soil life over the months when heat and drought can limit the building of soil biology. Many of us have seen an explosion of earthworms around the roots of our sorghum plants and, of course, the massive "root balls" that individual plants can produce.

Flexibility - I don't think anyone will argue that warm-season perennials are flexible. Warm season annuals, however, can be used in so many ways that they may be the true definition of flexibility in the forage world. They can be tall grazed, short grazed, or stockpiled. They can be single-harvested or multiple-harvested. They can be used for silage, baleage, and even dry hay at times. And they can be a main crop, double crop, nurse crop, smother crop, or cover crop. That's flexibility!

Call Your Byron Seeds Dealer listed in the back of this book for Help with Summer Annuals. We provide individualized recommendations to meet your farm's specific needs so you can benefit from a crop's maximum performance



Boom Boom by Ernest Weaver Mar 2017 DNL