



Late summer and early fall has many advantages over spring for planting forages. Planting at this time of year can spread your risk and you can, at times, depending on weather and latitude harvest quite a bit of high quality forage before winter. Having plants growing late in the fall gives you the chance to harvest sunlight for more days of the year. This benefits soil life and keeps it active – giving you more and quicker yields in the following spring and beyond. Here are some fall seeding options:

Perennial Pasture –

- Can be seeded after corn except in the most northern areas of the Midwest
- Less weed pressure than spring seedings
- Get 2 tons per acre more next year compared with a spring seeding next year
- Pasture is ready for early grazing next year
- Better stands than spring seeded stands
- Overall our experience has been that fall seeded stands outperform spring seedings in yield and density

Alfalfa and Grass Hay/Haylage Mixture

- Alfalfa has to be seeded 5 weeks before frost to ensure winter survival
- Fall seeding provides much better broadleaf weed competition than spring sowings. The grass out-compete weeds
- 2-3 tons per acre more hay next year (at \$250 per acre or more)
- Healthier more active soil compared to spring seedings

Double Cropping with Annuals

- Great way of extending the growing season with very high quality feed
- Annual grains and grasses have excellent root structures to recycle nutrients and loosen soil
- Yields an additional 2-4 tons of dairy quality hay per acre – at a value of \$200 per ton or more.

Cover Crops

- For those who are serious about building soils
- Allows something green and growing for more days of the year.
- Cover crops outcompete weeds and can reduce pests and diseases, meaning less pesticide use
- Helps mellow soils and slowly release nutrients
- Builds long term yield potential of cash crops