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Less Common Forage Crops that Fit a Niche

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Call it a Niche - Call it a Need - Call it a Void

Here are some "less common" forages to consider when circumstances force us to look beyond alfalfa, clover and cool season grasses to help us get through the year. These forages can fill in:

- During hay or pasture renovation
- As emergency hay, pasture, or silage
- To reduce production losses due to "summer slump" or drought
- To extend grazing season into late fall, winter, or early spring

BMR Sorghum x Sudangrass	hay and/or grazing, drought tolerant, high yield potential, good feeding quality for dairy or beef, multi-cut/graze
Black Forage Soybeans and German Millet or BMR Sorghum x Sudangrass mixture	one cut hay or silage, high protein
Pearl Millet	grazing, drought tolerant, suited to marginal soils
Grazing Maize (corn)	high energy crop for grazing or silage
Grazing Turnips	high quality late summer and fall grazing
Tyfon	Chinese cabbage x turnip hybrid, for late summer and fall grazing, no tuber
Spring Oats and Crabgrass mixture	early spring grazing of oats, summer grazing and/or hay high quality crabgrass
Triticale	rye x wheat hybrid, late fall and early spring grazing, most commonly used for silage
Winter Rye	excellent fall, winter, and early spring grazing; <i>Aroostook</i> and <i>Winter King</i> are improved forage varieties that have much higher forage yield potential
Annual Ryegrass	high quality fall and early spring grazing with

improved varieties during damp cool weather