

Elstel Farm & Seeds

“The Crabgrass Seed Folks”

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Fact Sheet 2004 And Seed List (Page 2)

Using Red River Crabgrass Stubble As A No-Tillage Planting Base For Winter Small Grains Crops

“No-Tillage” is planting a given crop without any tillage immediately before or during the planting. This is a somewhat common acceptable practice for numerous crops throughout the Eastern half of the U. S. The crops are many and the bases are primarily various perennial grasses, or that specific crops own residue from the last season. This is a good farming technique from about the longitude of Clinton, Oklahoma to the east coast and anyplace within that area that has about 25 inches or more annual precipitation and soils where small grains can be grown. There has been little attention given to using **Red River Crabgrass stubble as the base** to plant in. We have done that many times for many years for both winter pasture only or for grain and seed production. **We find Red River Crabgrass to be one of the very best of all bases we have used.** We have used at least 10 different bases in our experiences. This base also fits **extreme minimum till** plantings where only one or two tillage’s are used immediately before or during planting.

Examples. When I was employed at Noble Foundation, we used this technique to produce cereal rye pasture after summer crabgrass pasture. Every planting was successful, with an average equivalent production of 289 stoker cattle grazing days per acre, and a range of 172 to 462 grazing days per acre. At 289 grazing days per acre and 2 pounds average daily gain, this could represent 578 pounds of beef per acre. To date, on our farm, Jaggar wheat production with this technique has averaged 38 bushels per acre with the most proper planting yielding **53 bushels of wheat with only one tractor trip to plant.** Roundup herbicide was custom applied just prior to planting. That could be one more tractor trip. We have also very successfully used this technique to no-till plant Stoker bromegrass and other bromegrasses for seed production. It is obvious that this procedure could be used to establish fescue, orchardgrass, perennial wheatgrasses, and smooth bromegrass.

Advantages. Advantages of this style of planting compared to multiple seedbed tillage plantings are: 1) **Very easy and rapid** means of planting, 2) **Can use common grain drill** equipment and **low power tractors**, 3) Leaves an excellent soil surface covering for wind and water **erosion control**, 4) Red River crabgrass in a good stand is a good “herbicide” and few weed problems exist at fall planting time. 5) **Less soil moisture evaporation** due to residue cover on the soil surface. 6) Red River crabgrass stubble is **much less suppressive** to the following crop compared to most stubble bases, 7) Takes **much less total time** to “prepare” the area and plant (as little as 10 total minutes per acre of crop planted in our case), and 8) **Requires much less of everything associated with a tractor and everything it pulls**, from the purchase, to maintenance, to fuel used, to time riding the tractor. Think about it!!!

Summary of the Planting Technique: This is a variable technique. A good farmer and grass grower can visualize these variances, adjust to their case, and still do a superb job. But, some things are **absolute**, or the system will not perform at near it's top capability. A summary of these things is: 1) Manage and utilize the crabgrass to about a three inch **erect stubble** by about September 1 (at Oklahoma City latitude) or as soon as possible thereafter, 2) If very early and bare stubble, let it re-grow to about a 2 to 4 inch spindly leaf to absorb herbicide, then spray with about 1 ½ pints of Roundup herbicide per acre plus additives. 3) Drill soon thereafter. Drilling is very **easy in fresh dead crabgrass residue** about 7 to 15 days post-spraying. If the last utilization is later, or the stubble is dead, drill without the herbicide. 4) Plant with any grain drill or no-till drill at about one inch deep. **Do not pack the drill row hard.** Plant 80 to 100 pounds of live seed per acre of cereal rye, wheat, oats, barley, or triticale. Annual ryegrass will make much less early pasture, but the total is good. 5) **Absolute:** For early winter pasture **band a starter fertilizer** in the row with the seed. Use a nitrogen-phosphorus grade such as 18-46-0 at 50 to 100 pounds per acre. **You do not need a drill with a special fertilizer box.** The fertilizer is easily mixed with the seed and both planted down the row together from the seed box. **Always** wash and oil coat the drill box thoroughly when done. 6) **Absolute:** Apply actual nitrogen at 75 to 100 pounds per acre at planting or at emergence for earliest winter pasture. For grain only make the application anytime, but for sure by mid January to mid February. If the fall to midwinter pasture was good, consider re-topdressing at the same time as above for spring forage and grain production.

Renovation for Crabgrass: For crabgrass to volunteer and perform well, there must have been a **good seed drop** and the **soil must be at least lightly tilled at least once per year.** An alternative to strict no-till planting in the fall, is to **extreme minimum till and plant.** This benefits the crabgrass the next season. This can be done with one tandem trip with a tillage tool, roller, and drill (thus one tractor trip per crop). If the fall planting is **strictly no-till**, and at the winter crop end there is a poor crabgrass stand, then the area **should be lightly tilled** to encourage volunteer or planted crabgrass and good production. Using a tillage tool lightly (two to three inches deep) followed in tandem with a roller works well. The overall idea is to do a **good job with minimum equipment input** for both crops. Some variance of total year after year no-tillage is needed to make both crops perform well. These combinations can be planned on given farms.

2004 Seed List

<u>Seed</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Price FOB Ardmore,OK</u>
Red River Crabgrass-New Crop-----	Non-Certified-----	\$5.00/lb PLS
Red River Crabgrass-New Crop	Certified	\$ 6.00/lb PLS
Red River Crabgrass- Aged for quicker-----	Certified-----	\$ 6.50/lb PLS
And More Uniform Germination		
Red River Crabgrass and Native Barnyardgrass Mix-----	Non-Certified-----	\$ 3.25/lb PLS
For Mixed Textures and Wetter and Drier Land		
Barnyardgrass (Pure)- For wetter and tighter lands-----	Non-Certified-----	\$ 1.50/lb PLS
Native Crabgrass	Non-Certified	\$ 1.50/lb PLS
Redroot Pigweed- For sheep, goat, cattle pasture-----	Non-Certified-----	\$ 2.00/ lb PLS
Mixes well with Red River Crabgrass		
Old World Bluestems (Plains, WW-Spar, WW-Ironmaster	Non-Certified	\$ASK
WW-Bdahl)		
Wrangler Seeded Bermudagrass-----	Certified-----	\$ASK
Morpa Weeping Lovegrass	Non-Certified	\$ASK
Stocker Bromegrass-----	Non-Certified-----	\$0.97/ lb NET
417 Bromegrass	Non-Certified	\$ASK
Johnsongrass-----	Non-Certified-----	\$1.50/ lb PLS

Red River Crabgrass, Native Crabgrass, Redroot Pigweed, and Barnyardgrass Can All Volunteer

***WE SHIP UPS AND TRUCK LINE
NEED OTHER SEEDS???***

***CALL IF ORDER LATE
PERHAPS WE CAN HELP***