

# Teff (*Eragrostis tef*) Intercrops for Forage Production in Manitoba

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*Teff is a warm-season annual grass originating in northeast Africa, where it is grown for grain and forage.*

## OBJECTIVE

The study examined the interaction between teff grass and forage intercrops on crop performance, greenfeed yield and regrowth for late-season grazing of livestock.

## METHODS

- Replicated (x4) at PCDF, Roblin; planted in alternating rows on May 26, 2023
- Forage harvest August 15 (teff-only, teff-barley, teff-oats); August 30 (teff-millet)
- Forage regrowth sampling date October 16



Precipitation was 63% of normal



Heat units were 116% of normal

Fig 1: Weather summary Roblin Apr 15-Oct 15

## VARIETIES

**Teff:** Unidentified red (Imperial Seed) **Barley:** CDC Maverick

**Millet:** Japanese **Oats:** CDC Haymaker

## CLIMATE

- Soil moisture was adequate for germination, but lacking prior to greenfeed cut; good moisture for regrowth
- Heat was abundant for most of the growing season

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- Teff-only, teff-barley and teff-oats regrew after cutting for greenfeed, providing late-season grazing opportunities
- Millet maturity was delayed, resulting in no regrowth
- Teff-millet greenfeed yield was higher than teff-only, but total yield did not differ significantly between treatments
- Intercrops reduced lodging in teff, improving ease of cut
- Low precipitation appeared to affect plant growth

## REGROWTH FOR LATE-SEASON GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK

- Treatments cut on August 15 produced good teff regrowth, plus intercrop regrowth (teff-oats = 30% oats by weight; teff-barley = 11% barley by weight)
- Teff-millet treatment (August 30) produced no regrowth for teff or millet
- Grazing potential depends on animal size, crop height, and crop condition
- Forage ranged from 35-50 cm tall
- Teff-only = 30 days grazing/ac ; teff-oats = 27 days; teff-barley = 25 days†

† Assuming one 1500-lb cow and 500-lb calf per acre, 3% body weight reqs, 33% waste

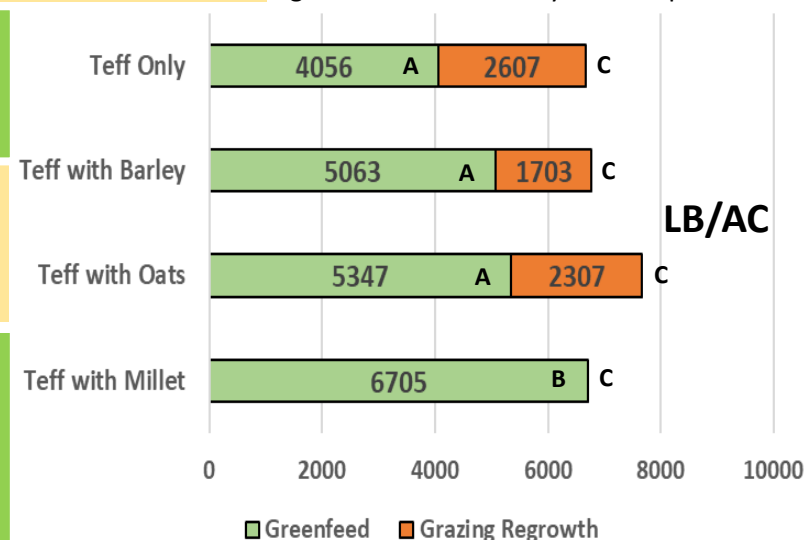


Fig 2: Forage yield for teff grass and teff-forage intercrops

Yield for treatments marked with the same letter do not differ significantly.

Teff-barley, Aug 15

Teff-oats, Aug 15

Teff-millet, Aug 30

Teff-oats, Nov 1