

Title: Teff (Eragrostis tef) Intercrops for Forage Production in Manitoba

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Teff (*Eragrostis tef*) is a warm-season annual grass that originates in northeast Africa, where it is commonly grown for forage and grain production. The Parkland Crop Diversification Foundation in Roblin examined the interaction between teff grass and barley, millet and oat intercrops on crop performance, greenfeed yield and regrowth for late-season grazing of livestock. Teff and intercrops were seeded in alternating rows, with all treatments replicated (x4). The plots were harvested for greenfeed at the appropriate staging for intercrops, resulting in an earlier cut for teff-only, teff-barley and teff-oats (August 14) and a delayed cut for teff-millet (August 30). Minimal early-season rainfall and high temperatures likely reduced greenfeed yields. Crop regrowth was measured on October 16, with the goal of estimating the amount of forage available for late-season grazing with livestock. Due to the delay in cutting, there was no regrowth for the teff-millet plots. Greenfeed yield was significantly higher for the teff-millet than for other greenfeed treatments, but total yield (greenfeed plus regrowth) did not differ between treatments. Depending on the class of cattle, the number of late-season grazing days per head per acre is estimated to be 25-58. Selection of an earlier maturing millet variety would likely improve harvest timing and encourage crop regrowth.