

Advantages of Triticale for Early Planting for Grazing in the Southern Plains

“Triticale has several unique advantages over wheat . . . Triticale has excellent resistance to Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus, better tolerance to Russian Wheat Aphid, resistance to Wheat Curl Mite, and a different array of diseases resistance genes affecting fall planted wheat.

In southwest Kansas, wheat planted for grazing purposes is usually sown 2-3 weeks earlier than recommended planting times for wheat intended for grain production.

This early planted wheat produces more forage, allowing greater utilization in terms of cattle/unit area. It also serves as a reservoir for wheat curl mites, which carry WSMV (Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus), Russian wheat aphid and leaf rust and stem rust.

Winter wheat planted at recommended dates for grain production in surrounding fields is often damaged by either insects or diseases which initially built up in early planted wheat meant for pasture.

Planting triticale on these early planted acres would reduce the incidence of wheat curl mite and Russian wheat aphid in addition to reducing the risk from wheat diseases.”

Rollie Sears
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