



MB Seed publication features 2021 forage trials

Manitoba forage producers have a very good reason to check out Seed Manitoba this year says Anne Kirk, editor of the annual publication

“Annual forages were included in our Manitoba Crop Variety Evaluation Team (MCVET) trials this year, and the results are published in Seed Manitoba,” said Kirk. “Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development’s Tim Clarke and Shawn Cabak also wrote an article on forages so there is good profile for forages in this year’s publication.”

Seed Manitoba is a joint effort between Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, Manitoba Seed Growers Association and the Manitoba Cooperator. Seed MB was distributed in the Manitoba Cooperator last Thursday and the publication is also available at the Manitoba Agriculture Resource Development and Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation service centres. Other opportunities to grab a copy will be at Manitoba Ag Days, through many seed growers, and other stakeholders. Larry Wegner, MFGA chair, is pleased with the timing of the 2021 publication and the inclusion of forages.

“Many producers are circling around and determining their annual farm plans for 2022 right now, so this is very timely,” says Wegner. “We are very happy to see forages included in this year’s publication and thank Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development for their work on the forage trials.”

According to Cabak, given the dry conditions faced this year, forage producers might want to be mindful of the following takeaways from the trial:

1. Annual forages are more moisture efficient than perennial forages and are a hedge against dry conditions.
2. Older perennial forage stands are impacted the most by drought conditions and should be renovated to maintain and improve overall forage production.
3. Younger, newer and fertilized perennial forage stands are higher yielding and receive better MASC forage insurance so forage management is important.
4. Annual C4 forages such as millet, sorghum and corn are the most drought and heat resistant plants.

The trial takeaways were valuable coming off such a dry summer said Wegner.

“We need to give perennial forages a chance to recover from the drought before being used as feed,” says Wegner. “Annuals give producers a feed option.”