

FORAGE RESEARCH UPDATES: Focus on Small Grain Forage

Compiled and edited by Paul Peterson, University of Minnesota

MINNESOTA

Barley vs. Oats: Forage Quality and Yield

Craig Sheaffer, Kevin Smith, Deon Stuthman - UM

A trial was conducted on yield and quality of oat and barley varieties for use as forage/companion crops. Entries were harvested at late boot to early heading but yield would have been increased if harvest had occurred at later stages of development. Consistent with previous research, barley forage generally has greater quality than oats. Royal, a short stature barley selected for use as a companion crop, had lower yield but higher quality.

Table 1. Forage yield and neutral detergent fiber (NDF), crude protein (CP), and relative feed value (RFV) of oat and barley varieties. ^{†‡}

	Yield	Forage Quality		
		NDF	CP	RFV
	T/acre	-----%-----		
Oat Varieties				
Belle	1.5	53	17	105
Richard	1.7	50	18	118
Sesqui	1.9	52	17	108
Barley Varieties				
Robust	1.7	52	16	110
Royal	1.3	47	20	127
Stander	1.8	50	19	117

[†]Oat & barley planted 20 May; harvested 2 July 02 at boot to early heading.

[‡] Details on variety traits provided at www.maes.umn.edu.