

Evaluating the Effects of Planting Date and Cutting Height on Teff Grass Yields in Idaho

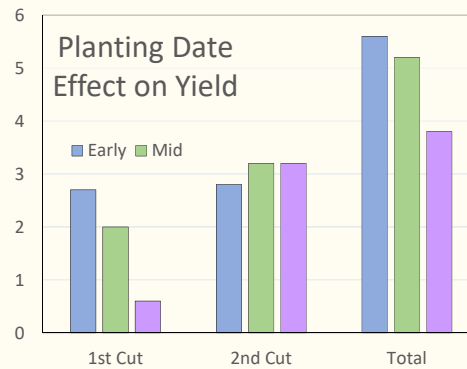
Objective

Establish basic agronomic practices for teff production in Idaho such as planting date and effective cutting height for optimal regrowth.

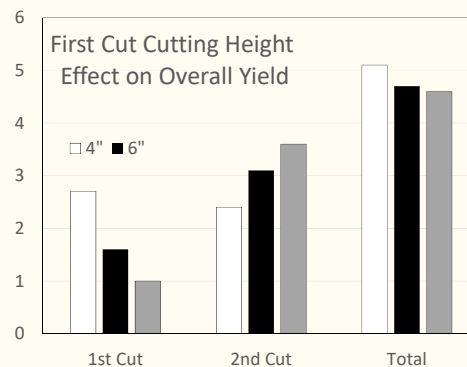
Methods

Teff was planted on 3 different planting dates, May 13th, June 3rd and June 14th, 2019. All plots were harvested for the first cut on July 31st, 2019. Three different cutting heights were recorded; Low (4 inches), Medium (6 inches), and High (9 inches). All plots were harvested at the same height on the second cut. Plots were planted as a split split plot design with 4 replications. All plots were irrigated and harvested equally without limitations.

Results



Cut	1st	2nd	Total
Early	2.7	2.8	5.6
Mid	2	3.2	5.2
Late	0.6	3.2	3.8
Mean	1.8	3.1	4.9
LSD (.05)	0.37	NS	0.5
Pr>F	0	NS	0



Cut	1st	2nd	Total
Low	2.7	2.4	5.1
Med	1.6	3.1	4.7
High	1	3.6	4.6
Mean	1.8	3	4.8
LSD (.05)	0.4	0.86	NS
Pr>F	0	0	NS

Conclusions

Planting date has an effect on yield. Earlier planting has proven to be more successful than later planting. Idaho growers must balance between planting for optimal yield and avoiding late frosts in the spring. There is a clear window between mid-May and early June where growers will not see any statistical difference in yield.

Lower cutting height on the first harvest impedes teff's ability to regrow for the second cutting. Growers can obtain higher yields on the second cutting by sacrificing yield on the first cutting. There was no statistical difference in total yield for the 2019 growing season. Sacrificing yield on the first or second cutting will not increase overall yield.

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