

Small Grain Production in the Eastern U.P.

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Oats: Most tolerant of wet, acidic soils, marketable, currently fair-good price

Barley: Good feed grain

Wheat: Cash crop opportunity

	Target pH	N removal		P ₂ O ₅ removal		K ₂ O removal	
		Per bu grain	Per ton straw	Per bu grain	Per ton straw	Per bu grain	Per ton straw
Oats	5.5-7	.62	13	.25	2.8	.19	57
Barley	6.0-7	.62	13	.19	2.8	.25	57
Wheat	6.0-7	1.2	13	.63	3.3	.37	23

	Number seeds/lb	Seeding rate (lbs/a)	Disease problems
Oats	16,200	80-110	Crown rust, leaf spots and rusts
Barley	14,300	96-120	Fusarium, leaf spots and rusts
Wheat	11,000-18,000	120-150	Fusarium, leaf spots and rusts

Oat varieties of interest: Ida, Ogle, Excel, Esker, Rockford

Barley varieties of interest: Rasmusson, Kewaunee, Excel, Bowers

Soft Red Winter Wheat varieties of interest: Hopewell, Pioneer 25R47, Red Ruby

Soft White Winter Wheat varieties of interest: Pioneer 25W43, Ambassador,
AC Mountain, Pioneer 25W36

Checklist for small grain production in Eastern U.P.

- Select best drained fields possible
- Keep surface drainage in good order
- Soil test
- Apply lime and nutrients based on realistic yield goal
- Start with clean field – control perennials and annuals
- Prepare good seedbed – fall plowing on clay soils
- Plant oats and barley early, plant winter wheat to allow 6” fall growth (by Labor Day is normal)
- Control weeds and disease