LAKEVIEW ORGANIC GRAIN
Box 361, 1343 Nutt Rd
Penn Yan, NY 14527 315-531-1038
www.lakevieworganicgrain.com

WINTER-SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

Winter has arrived, harvest is winding down, bins of grain and cover-cropped gardens are tucked safely in for a long winter's nap and as the world continues to adjust to new realities, costs and changes, we look ahead to a new year and a new season with anticipation.

Now, we are actively preparing for a new season.

Here at **Lakeview Organic Grain,** things have certainly changed in 2024.

In August 2024, we closed the tired old feed mill and exited the organic feed business, much to the relief of the people, the trucks and the equipment. Thirty years in the feed business is enough.

But that does not mean that Lakeview Organic Grain is out of business! Not at all!

Truckloads of corn and soybeans from local farmers are still arriving every day. We have purchased a large amount of grain this year directly out of the field from many New York and Pennsylvania farmers. We may have left the animal feed business, but we are still brokering organic grains of both high quality and high integrity –our buyers always know these grains were honestly grown by New York organic grain farmers!

Drought and/or excess rain definitely limited yield in some areas, but this has meant we could increase the number of local grain farmers who are 'under the Lakeview umbrella'. We appreciate our grain farmers!

SEED now is our primary focus at Lakeview, along with supporting the growth of our new family business, **Seneca Grain and Bean**, which sells food-grade wheat, spelt, einkorn, dry beans, popcorn, lentils and other delicious products grown on our farm. Please check out the website www.senecagrainandbean.com.

We have re-located our operations and office to our farm. Our office is temporarily located at 1343 Nutt Rd, Penn Yan, with plans to build a second climate-controlled grain warehouse with office space this winter to house both *Lakeview Organic Grain* and *Seneca Grain and Bean*. The generational transition is moving forward well.

The Lakeview Organic Grain phone number and post office box address have not changed, only our physical location and pickup address.

With a full line-up of organic cover crop options to serve the needs of vegetable farmers, we also carry organic corn, soybean, alfalfa and pasture grass seed, primarily from Blue River/Albert Lea seeds.

Let us help you plan creative cover crop plans for year-round biodiversity, pest control, and soil health!
Let us help you improve pasture diversity and resilience to provide great forage through the season!
Let us help you grow great small grains, corn and soybeans to supply the organic grain market!
Let us help you improve and diversify your crop rotation and select seed for your entire farm!

Give us a call, stop in to visit – we may have changed our product line, but the core mission that has always guided and defined Lakeview Organic Grain for nearly 30 years has not changed –

"WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER".

CERTIFIED ORGANIC SEED FOR SPRING 2025

Blue River hybrid corn – only varieties listed on page 3 *Organic!*	$280-290 /bag
Wapsie Valley Open Pollinated corn (87 day, best for silage) *Organic!*	$200/ bag
Soybean – Boyd – *our own variety* (1.9) *Organic!*	$55/50 lb
Soybean – only varieties listed on page 3 *Organic!*	$60/bag
***** Custom orders for other Blue River varieties must be placed no later than March 1*****	
Alfalfa – Blue River 3800 (multi-disease resistance) *Organic!*	280.00/50lb
***** Custom orders for other Blue River varieties must be placed no later than March 1*****	
Oats – Esker2020 (midseason, certified seed) *Organic!*	26.00 /50 lb
Oats – Keuka – *our own variety* (suitable for grain or forage) *Organic!*	25.00 /50 lb
Oats – Streaker Hull-less *Organic! (48 lb bag)*	45.00 /48 lb
Barley - Quest (spring, 6-row feed barley) *Organic*	30.00 /50 lb
Triticale - Gunner spring (grain or forage, certified seed) *Conventional untreated only*	35.00 /50 lb
Wheat - Bolles hard red spring wheat (certified seed) *Organic!*	40.00 /50 lb
Rye – cover crop *Organic!*	35.00 /50 lb
Peas – '4010' purple forage pea *Organic!*	45.00 /50 lb
Peas – Admiral yellow grain pea *Organic!*	45.00 /50 lb
Peas – Austrian winter pea *Organic!*	50.00 /50 lb
Buckwheat *Organic!*	50.00 /50 lb
Clover – Medium Red (best for cover crop) *Organic! Inoculated, but not coated*	215.00 /50 lb
Clover – 'Manitoba' (better for grazing, longer rotations) *Organic! Coated & inoculated*	225.00 /50 lb
Clover - Alsike *Organic!*	195.00 /50 lb
Clover - Crimson *Organic!*	165.00 /50 lb
Clover - Yellow sweet *Organic!*	165.00 /50 lb
Clover – 'Rivendell' (grazing white clover, much like Alice) *Organic! (in 25 lb bags)*	175.00 /25 lb
Clover – White Dutch (great for vegetable row middles) **conventional untreated only*	225.00 /50 lb
Clover – Ladino white clover *Organic!*	285.00 /50 lb
Clover – Berseem **conventional untreated only*	110.00 /50 lb
Hairy Vetch *Organic!*	130.00 /50 lb
Timothy – Climax *Organic!*	170.00 /50 lb
BMR Sorghum-Sudangrass 'Blue River 236' Gene 6/dry stem) *Organic!*	100.00 /50 lb
Organic Pasture/Hay Mix *Organic! (25 lb bags)* *smooth bromegrass, timothy, perennial & annual ryegrass, festilolium, meadow fescue*	120.00 /25 lb
Orchardgrass – Echelon (*very late maturity, exc yield & hardiness*) *Organic!*	215.00 /50 lb
Tall Fescue – Kora *(drought tolerant, deep rooted exc yield, digestability) Organic!*	230.00 /50 lb
Meadow Fescue - Laura *(high yield, quick establish, very palatable, tolerant of wet soils)*	230.00 /50 lb
Perennial Ryegrass – Calibra *Organic! (quick establish, best on heavy soil, late maturing)*	185.00 /50 lb
Annual (Italian) Ryegrass - *Organic! (quick growth, great in new seedings, high yield)*	120.00 /50 lb
Festilolium – Federo *Organic! (Meadow fescue x Italian ryegrass, quick establish, exc yield)*	175.00 /50 lb
Bromegrass - AC Royal - smooth *conv unt only (excellent persistence, best for heavier soil)*	200.00 /50 lb
Birdsfoot Trefoil **conventional untreated only*	350.00 /50 lb
Yellow Mustard (cover crop) **conventional untreated only*	110.00 /50 lb
Japanese Millet *Organic!*	65.00 /50 lb
Tillage Radish - Tapmaster– *Organic!*	175.00 /50 lb
Turnip – Barkant Forage **conventional untreated only (25 lb bag)*	65.00 /25 lb
Sunflower – Peredovik **conventional untreated only*	48.00 /50 lb
Phacelia -**conventional untreated only*	200.00 50 lb
Sunn Hemp -**conventional untreated only*	95.00 /50 lb
Cow Pea - Iron and Clay -**conventional untreated only*	60.00/ 50 lb

❁❁ **All special orders for items not on this list must be placed by no later than March 1!** ❁❁

Every year, we carefully review and select several corn and soybean varieties that we think are well-suited to conditions in New York/Northeast, with appropriate maturity, disease/stress resistance, versatility and yield potential. These varieties we will stock as inventory.

Variety (maturity days)	price/ bag
Corn – Blue River 0.58-85 'Ultra-Pure' (85 day)	$290.00 /80,000 kernel (grain)
Corn – Blue River 0.45-88 'Pure' (88 day)	$280.00 /80,000 kernel (grain)
Corn – Blue River 0.84-95 Pure' (95 day)	$280.00/80,000 kernel (grain)
Corn - Wapsie Valley OP graded	$200.00/50 lb bag
Corn – Wapsie Valley OP ungraded	$50.00/50 lb bag (for summer forage similar to sorghum sudangrass)
Soybeans – Boyd (group 1.9)	$55.00/50 lb bag
Soybeans –Blue River 1202 (group 1.2)	$60.00/140,000 seed count
Soybeans –Blue River 1518 (group 1.5)	$60.00/140,000 seed count
Soybeans –Blue River 1718 (group 1.8)	$60.00/140,000 seed count
Soybeans –Blue River 2155 (group 2.1)	$60.00/140,000 seed count

***** Custom orders for other Blue River varieties must be placed no later than March 1*****

Early payment discounts – corn & soybeans - 5% by 12/31/24, 4% by 1/31/25, 2% by 2/28/25
All other seed – 5% by 12/31/24

Volume discounts
Corn 20-99 bags - $2.00/bag
Soybeans 40-99 bags - $0.50/bag Soybeans 100-150 bags - $0.75/bag
Soybeans > 150 bags - $1.00/bag

CORN

Blue River 58-85 (85 day) – "UltraPure" –high yield potential, exc. emergence/early growth, dual purpose
Blue River 45-88 (88 day) – "Pure – *favorite!* excellent yield, strong drought/stress tol, exc. emergence, high TW
Blue River 84-95 (95 day) – "Pure"all-round best 95 day, widely adapted, high yield, very good test weight, stress tol
***** Custom orders for other Blue River varieties must be placed no later than March 1*****

Open Pollinated Wapsie Valley - (87 day) tall, improved excellent OP , best for silage, yellow & red kernels
** After trying this out last year on our farm, we recommend planting inexpensive 'ungraded' Wapsie Valley corn in early summer for a quick high tonnage and quality annual forage, to be harvested and ensiled like BMR sorghum sudan. It works well mixed with BMR for increased tonnage. Plant at 20-30 lb/A for best yield **

SOYBEANS

Blue River 1202 Soybeans (1.2) –high yield for short season, bushy plant, disease resistant, brown hilum
Blue River 1518 Soybeans (1.5) –high yield early, bushy, strong emergence, excellent disease resst, black hilum
Blue River 1718 Soybeans (1.8) – Outstanding disease tolerance, excellent yield potential, consistent performance
Blue River 2155 soybeans (2.1) – Outstanding yield potential, excellent disease resistance, brown hilum
***** Custom orders for other Blue River varieties must be placed no later than March 1*****

Boyd (1.9) – *** Boyd soybeans are in good supply this year! ***
Boyd is our own variety, very tall, large bushy plant, clear hilum, branching, high-set pods, strong yield, widely adaptable, and has proven very reliable for many years. Nearly 40 years ago, Klaas noticed one significantly different off-type plant growing in a field, leapt off the combine, grabbed it, and then tested it in the garden for the next few years. This has proven to be particularly well adapted to organic conditions with a large bushy plant well-suited for grain and forage and closes the rows weeds quickly, thereby controlling weeds. It also makes a great summer legume cover crop!

***** Custom orders for other Blue River varieties must be placed no later than March 1*****

****Organically-approved non-GMO Rhizobium inoculant is available for alfalfa/clover, pea/vetch, and soybeans***
We also have other types of conventional untreated grasses and forages.
All prices cash, FOB at Lakeview Organic Grain, Penn Yan, NY

'Keuka' Oats – Our own variety, mid-season, a large leafy plant, highly suitable for grain, cover crop or forage, high grain yield, good disease resistance, a consistent solid oat with years of good performance in New York

'Esker2020' Oats –An improved version of the long-time favorite, Esker oats, with superior yield potential, test weight, and disease resistance. Very good rust resistance. Medium tall, mid-season.

'Streaker' hull-less oats – a true hull-less oat for food or feed use, excellent test weight, very high grain yield, tall plant, excellent disease resistance.

'Quest' Spring Barley –a good midseason 6-row dual purpose barley with high yield, Fusarium head blight resistance, good test weight and lodging resistance.

'Bolles' Spring Wheat – high test weight and protein, good scab (Fusarium) tolerance and good rust resistance, strong straw strength, medium-late maturity.

'Gunner' Spring Triticale – available as conventional untreated only this year because of 2024 Midwest crop failures. Taller and leafier than wheat and oats, disease resistant, beardless (awnless), with higher protein and more feed value when chopped for forage. Spring triticale is best for forage, especially when in a mix with peas, with late maturity for longer forage harvest window. Also great as a cover crop.

Alfalfa - Blue River 3800, a highly disease resistant-resistant variety with excellent yields, fast establishment, quick recovery, and good tolerance to wetter soils. Medium resistance to potato leafhopper. **Additional varleties of alfalfa will be available as organic and conventional untreated seed – check for availability and price.**

Buckwheat – prized as a cover crop for weed and disease control, and nutrient cycling on organic farms. Can also be used as a forage. This variety is not suitable for food-grade buckwheat contracts.

Yellow mustard - we have been experimenting with yellow mustard as a short-term early season cover crop to clean up weed and soil disease problems. What a difference this has made when grown before a crop of dry beans – probably many veggies would benefit! Yellow mustard can also be planted in late August for a great fall cover crop.

"Admiral" Yellow grain field peas – early maturing high yielding yellow peas, works best with support of early oats or spring barley for high grain yield and quality.

'4010' Purple Forage Peas – lush large leafy plants that produce excellent quality and quantity of highly palatable forage and cover crop, purple peas are best when grown with a small grain like triticale or oats for support. Makes great microgreens too!

Austrian Winter Peas – amazing large leafy plants that produce excellent quality and quantity of forage. Winter peas are not only hardy over the winter, but also appear to be more drought/heat tolerant during the summer than the 4010 forage peas. Be sure to eat the shoots – they are delicious!

Medium Red Clover – Many organic farmers frost seed all their small grains with a red clover cover crop. This provides good ground cover after the small grain is harvested with generous organic matter and nitrogen production. Clover is also a valuable pasture and hay species. **Organic 'vns' red clover** is well suited for cover crop underseeding, while **'Manitoba' clover** is an improved longer lasting grazing clover variety with excellent forage quality and yield, excellent disease resistance, and very good winter survival.

We also have other clover types, such as **Rivendell white clover** – a grazing white clover similar to Alice with improved winter hardiness and disease resistance. **Alsike, crimson** and **yellow blossom sweet** as organic seed, and **Dutch white, ladino and berseem** as conventional untreated seed. For vegetable row-middles, **Dutch white clover** is less non-competitive/shorter, well-suited to row middles.

Hairy Vetch –Normally planted in the fall, this biennial legume produces large amounts of organic matter and nitrogen early in the season, often used as a cover/green manure crop or companion cropped with rye for overwinter cover, but can become a 'noxious' weed problem on farms producing wheat.

BMR Sorghum Sudangrass An exceptional warm-season forage, producing large quantities of highly palatable and digestible forage. Can be chopped, grazed or round-baled. Early maturing Gene 6/dry stem. Drought tolerant. Plant June - July for early fall harvest. Works well in mixtures with small grains and peas, but can be too vigorous in a cover crop mix.

'Climax' Timothy – a high quality, high-sugar grass for hay or pasture, works best with alfalfa or clover. Very winter hardy, tolerant of wet soils, but not very drought tolerant. Best for hay. If grazed, use care to prevent overgrazing.

Japanese Millet – Upright, warm season annual grass with rapid growth, 2-3 possible cuttings for summer forage, no danger of prussic acid poisoning, productive in heavy soils, protein 14-20%.

RECOMMENDED SEEDING RATES

Crop	*wt/bu*	*Seeding Rate/A*	*Seeding Depth*
Oats	32 lb/bu	75 - 100 lb/A (2-3 bu)	1 - 2.0”
Oats – Hull-less	50 lb/bu	80 - 100 lb/A	1 - 2.5”
Wheat - Spring	60 lb/bu	120 - 160 lb/A	1 – 2.0”
Barley - Spring	48 lb/bu	96-130 lb/A (2.5 – 3 bu/A)	1 – 2.0”
Triticale - Spring	56 lb/bu	120 - 150 lb/A	1 – 2.0"
Rye	60 lb/bu	120-150 lb/A	0.75-1.0”
Buckwheat	50 lb/bu	40 - 60 lb/A	0.5 - 1.5”
Peas. Forage 4010	60 lb/bu	60-100 lb/A	1 – 3”
Hybrid Corn	56 lb/bu	25000–30000 seeds/A (3 acres/bag)	2.0 -2.5”
Open Pollinated corn	56 lb/bu	18000–22000seeds/A (3 acres/bag)	2.0 -2.5”
Soybeans	60 lb/bu	50-90 lb/A depending on seed size	1 - 2”
Clover – Red, Manitoba	60 lb/bu	8 – 10 lb/A	frost seed - 0.50”
Clover – Crimson, Alsike	60 lb/bu	8 – 10 lb/A	frost seed - 0.50”
Clover - White	60 lb/bu	2 - 5 lb/A	frost seed - 0.50"
Alfalfa	60 lb/bu	12 - 20 lb/A	0.25 - 0.50”
Timothy	45 lb/bu	2 - 8 lb/A	0.25 - 0.50”
BMR Sorghum Sudangrass	45 lb/bu	35 - 50 lb/A	0.25 - 0.50”
Japanese Millet	40 lb/bu	25-30 lb/A	0.25 - 0.50”
Orchardgrass, Fescue	30 lb/bu	4 - 12 lb/A	1 - 1.50”
Bromegrass, Ryegrass	30 lb/bu	4 - 12 lb/A	1 - 1.50”
Festilolium	30 lb/bu	4 - 12 lb/A	1 - 1.50”
Birdsfoot Trefoil	60 lb/bu	4 - 10 lb/A	0.25 - 0.50”
Hairy Vetch	60 lb/bu	8-10 lb/A	0.25 - 0.50”
Mustard	60 lb/bu	7-10 lb/A	frost seed -0.75"
Radish – Daikon	50 lb/bu	6-8 lb/A	0.25-0.50”
Pasture/Hay Mix	6-10#/A with alfalfa or clover		

SHIPPING OPTIONS - we offer the following seed shipping options:

You pick it up – always the cheapest, but please always call 24 hours in advance so we can have your order ready for you!

Rist Transport – for pallet (LTL) delivery in the NYC/Long Island area and throughout the Northeast, rates vary with location. Call for a quote.

UPS – delivery in 2-5 days, only cost effective for 6 bags or less. The UPS charge is usually about $40/bag.

**** Please Note – we no longer have feed trucks on the road. That delivery option is no longer available. ****

Cover Crops or Annual Forages?

The annual forages, so prized on some dairy farms to extend the season and add valuable nutritious tonnage at critical times are often the same plants that vegetable farmers use as cover crops to improve soil health, increase organic matter, suppress weeds, improve nutrient cycling, and protect soil from erosion!

By developing a repertoire of suitable plant species, we can identify compatible mixtures, our particular 'windows of opportunity' and the unique needs of our farm, and plan our cover crop/annual forage to strategically meet our goals

1. Build the Repertoire

LEGUMES – 4010 forage peas, Austrian winter peas, hairy vetch, red clover, grazing white clover, Dutch white clover, yellow sweet clover, alsike clover, crimson clover, alfalfa, sunn hemp, sainfoin, lupin, faba beans, phacelia, cowpea, lentils, birdsfoot trefoil

GRASSES – oats, wheat, rye, barley, triticale, spelt, BMR sorghum sudangrass, Japanese millet, annual ryegrass, timothy, other sorghums, sudangrass and millets, perennial pasture grass species

BRASSICAS – forage turnip, Daikon radish, forage kale, winter camelina, dwarf Essex rape,

OTHER 'FORBS' – buckwheat, sunflower

2. Choose the Timing = Identify Your 'Windows of Opportunity"

3.

When do you want to plant? When do you want the cover crop to finish? What are your crop rotation plans – what is growing there now and what do you want to grow there next?

Spring Planting – spring small grains (spring triticale, barley, wheat, and oats) mixed with forage peas, clovers, yellow mustard, annual ryegrass

Early-mid Summer Planting – buckwheat, annual ryegrass, soybeans, BMR sorghum sudangrass, open-pollinated corn for forage, Japanese millet, sorghum, cowpeas, sunn hemp

Late Summer Planting – oats mixed with forage peas, and/or forage brassicas such as Daikon radish, mustard, forage turnip, and kale

Fall Planting for winter-kill– oats mixed with forage peas, buckwheat, turnip, mustard, radish

Fall Planting for overwintering - winter triticale, rye, wheat, or barley mixed with Austrian winter peas, dwarf Essex rape, hairy vetch, winter camelina

3. Define Your Desired Goals

Remember – there is no single RIGHT way to make a cover crop mix. There are endless possibilities depending on your particular goals and timing! Do you want a mix that effectively smothers weeds? Erosion and water control? Are you trying to grow more of your nitrogen? Regenerate and fallow land for a season? Provide living soil protection and nutrient stabilization over the winter? Leave minimal residue or living plants in the spring? Stabilize and protect row middles? Begin renovation of cleared land? Pollinator habitat?

Cover-cropping is much like painting a picture or playing a glorious piece of music – we choose from the adapted repertoire of 'colors' or 'notes', plug in our desired timing and then let creativity grow, only limited by our imagination and creativity (plus price, equipment and seed availability, of course)

4. Soil preparation and planting equipment

Frost seeding – small-seeded legumes (clovers) and yellow mustard can be frost-seeded in the early spring, It is a simple process that involves spinning or broadcasting the seed onto the field when day-night thaw-freeze cycles are still occurring. Tiny cracks on the soil surface open as it freezes and thaws and the seed effectively rolls in, planting it. This process works best for clover and mustard seed because they are smooth and round. It does NOT work well for larger seed like small grains, peas or most pasture grasses.

Broadcasting – Of course this is simplest, but it often is the least effective. Much of the seed thrown on top of the soil will be lost to birds, rodents, or simply not have enough moisture to germinate and grow. If you must broadcast, make sure to go over the field with a harrow, rake or roller to ensure good seed-soil contact. Larger seeds like peas and small grains really need to the planted 'in the dirt' with complete seed-soil contact – examine at the field to determine if you see seed sitting on the surface. In mixes that contain both large and small seeds, broadcasting will often throw the large seeds farther than light seeds resulting in uneven distribution, unless the spreader makes overlapping passes.

Drilling – A grain drill set for 1-2 inch depth can plant most large-seeded mixes effectively, but small seeds should go in between ¼ - ½ inch deep. When the mix contains some small seed (grasses, clovers) and some large seeds, it will work better to plant small seeds in the grass seedbox for better depth and seeding rate calibration. Sometimes you can plant a mix to an average of 1 inch, but if conditions are droughty, this may not be deep enough for the large seeded species to establish well.

5. Assemble the Seed Mixture

Below are some basic cover crop mixture suggestions. Please note that at this time, we sell the components, not the final mixtures. There are two very good reasons for this!

Primarily, this is because everyone has different ideas of what they want. We put you in the driver's seat on this one. Your farm is unique and therefore your cover crop mix should be designed for your particular goals, equipment and timing.

The second reason is that seed of different size, shape and surface characteristics will stratify and settle in a bag, resulting in non-uniform layers. It is better to assemble the mixture just before planting or be able to plant the large seeds and small seeds separately for more uniform coverage.

Please note that the seed mixes percentages are by weight, not by seed count. A pound of clover seed contains nearly twice as many viable seeds as a pound of oat seed.

A Few Simple Cover-Crop Mix Suggestions:

After-the-Harvest Blanket – a cool-season mix that will grow until hard frost. It is great for stabilizing nutrients, adding nitrogen and organic material, providing residue that protects the soil over winter These species generally winter-kill, leaving the soil mellow and relatively weed-free in the spring . Some people use this mix for a deer plot and add up to 10% sunflower or Boyd soybean seed. Plant August-Sept.
40% 4010 Peas, 40% Oats, 5% radish, 5% forage turnip, 10% yellow mustard

Cozy Winter Blanket – a great mix for fall cover that will over-winter in most Northeast locations and protect the soil into the spring. It will prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, provide organic matter, and the spring growth is delicious spring forage for grazing animals. The crimson clover adds eye-popping color at bloom and also improve soil nitrogen. Plant mid-August-mid October
45% winter triticale, 40% Austrian winter Peas, 10% crimson clover (rye can be substituted for the triticale, vetch for the peas)

Soil Health Plus Blanket – a legume-rich mix to plant either in Feb-March or early August for as a nutrient-dense plowdown in the spring for abundant organic matter and nitrogen. This mix also stabilizes nutrients and provides colorful pollinator habitat.
20% red clover, 10% alsike clover, 40% Oats, 20% 4010 Peas, 10% yellow mustard

Summer Blanket – just what is needed on those long hot summer days and warm nights. This will add lush organic material, weed suppression, pollinator habitat, and nutrient management. Great after small grain harvest or in fallow garden plots, it really loves hot weather!
40% buckwheat, 25% Annual ryegrass, 25% Boyd soybeans, 10% Japanese millet

Season-Long Succession Blanket – Do you want a mix that automatically relays seasonally into appropriate species mixes from spring through the following year?
Plant this mix in late June and watch the buckwheat first predominate, controlling weeds, providing abundant pollen to bees, and solubilizing soil phosphorus. As the buckwheat matures, the winter triticale, annual ryegrass and radish will become apparent with some volunteer buckwheat, creating a lush weed-choking grassy blanket through the fall. The triticale and crimson clover will overwinter, providing soil protection, great re-growth, and a crimson feast-for-the-eyes in the spring. Adding some timothy and medium red clover to the original mix can create a cover *crop that transitions without extra work into permanent sod/hay/pasture.*
35% buckwheat, 25% winter triticale, 20% annual ryegrass, 15% crimson clover, 5% radish

Pathway Blanket – The best cover crop between garden raised beds or plastic is a mixture of low-growing Dutch white clover and annual ryegrass. Both establish quickly and stand up to foot and light equipment traffic.
3 lb Dutch white clover + 10 lb annual ryegrass/A.

Keep it Simple Blanket – Many of us just want to get the job done, simpler the better!
Spring – 50% Oats + 50% 4010 Peas (= oatlage) or 50% Oats + 50% Spring Triticale (= tritilage)
Summer – 100% buckwheat or 80% buckwheat + 20% annual ryegrass
Fall winterkill – 50% Oats + 50% 4010 Peas
Fall over winter - 50% Winter Triticale + 50% Austrian winter pea or 80% rye + 20% hairy vetch

Should I inoculate cover crops?

Nitrogen is critical for plant growth and development. Most plant roots take up nitrogen from the soil, but the legume family of plants has the unique ability to make or "fix" nitrogen directly from nitrogen gas in the air.

In order to do this, legume roots must associate with a species of bacteria called 'Rhizobium'. The bacteria forms lumps on the legume's roots called nodules which turn atmospheric nitrogen (N_2) into ammonium (NH_4) and nitrate (NO_3), the forms of nitrogen that plants can use. Since nitrogen is essential for protein formation, legumes are the richest sources of plant protein.

There are over 200 different species of Rhizobia and they are species specific – it takes a different species of Rhizobium to inoculate soybeans than clover. Although commonly found in the soil, 'natural' Rhizobia may be dormant or of the wrong species It is quick easy insurance to apply fresh Rhizobium inoculant when planting a legume.

Inoculants come in several forms, but the most common is a bacteria-infused peat. While it may look like just moist humus, but the peat contains billions and billions of bacteria cells!

Because inoculant is packed with living organisms, it is essential to store it in a cool, dry location before use. Invisible but seriously massive bacterial death will occur in a hot truck. All inoculant bags are stamped with an expiration date, generally 12 months after manufacture.

Organic farmers must be careful that their inoculant is allowed by their certifier. We carry N-Dure alfalfa clover inoculant, N-Dure pea/vetch inoculant and N-dure soybean inoculant, and we can get the correct inoculant for Phaseolus beans (snap & dry), and birdsfoot trefoil – all are organically approved OMRI-listed products that do not contain GMO's or other organically-prohibited ingredients.

Managing Organic Corn

We generally recommend choosing varieties that will reach 'black layer' (physiological maturity) at least one to two weeks before the first killing frost in your area. Full season hybrids usually will yield better than short season hybrids, so the longest season hybrid you can 'get away with' will often give the greatest yield. But, if a hybrid is 'too long', the grain will have higher moisture and lower quality at harvest, with a higher cost of drying and an increased risk of frost, pest and mycotoxin damage.

In New York, most organic farmers choose 85-95 day hybrids, though there are areas where 96-105 day corn varieties do very well. We need to wait to plant until the soil is reliably above 50 degrees, because otherwise our untreated seed will germinate slowly, making it more susceptible to insects and diseases. Longer season corn varieties will usually shine in hot, dry years, since they are more drought and heat-tolerant with a stronger root system. Short season hybrids perform better in the cool, wet years or when there is an early frost.

Please keep in mind that your actual yield is less than half the result of the genetics of the variety. The highest ratings in the world will not compensate for yield loss due to weed pressure, inadequate soil fertility, seedbed prep, seed depth control, or soil condition/drainage problems, insufficient crop rotation, machinery issues, or waiting to harvest too long after physiological maturity.

It has been proven that more yield is lost from a poorly adjusted corn planter than at any other point in the season, but a poorly adjusted combine takes a close second! Putting extra effort into variety selection will likely be disappointing unless a similar level of attention is put into all those more demanding good-farming agronomic practices.

RENOVATING A RUN-OUT PASTURE

Question – "I have a pasture (or hay field) that has gotten weedy and the grass is thin in spots. What can I buy that can be broadcast or no-till drilled that will thicken up the pasture with better stuff?"

How many times have we gotten this question!? Everyone wants a simple answer that requires a minimum of work. Of course, the easy thing would be to just sell them some seed, but unfortunately, that is often not the right answer.

When a pasture or hay field 'runs out', growing more weeds than the intended plant species or showing barren patches, there are usually good reasons and if you attempt to re-plant without addressing those reasons, often that expensive new seeding will fail.

Pasture and hay field decline is usually due to three primary reasons –

(1) Soil fertility has dropped and no longer supports good grass growth

Before reseeding, especially if you are overseeding, it is smart to take soil tests to determine if certain nutrients are deficient. Be sure to take a representative sample of the pasture, not just the bad areas, and get the test analyzed for both macro and micronutrients. The soil fertility status can have a huge effect on the growth of intended species and the nutritive value of the forage. Also consider whether lime or gypsum is needed, because low calcium can cause pastures to thin, encourage undesirable tough-to-control weeds to move in, and produce forage of significantly poorer nutritive quality. Certain invasive perennial weeds, like thistle and purple knapweed, thrive in low fertility over-grazed soil, developing extensive underground root systems that make eradication difficult using organic techniques. Reseeding into invasive weed patches alone is not likely to control the situation.

(2) Drainage problems have damaged soil structure and root survival

Has the pasture failed in identifiable areas because of poor drainage or erosion? Before you reseed, you may want to consider installing additional tile drainage or changing cropping patterns to reduce erosion and runoff. If there are problems areas and you can't add additional drainage right now, perhaps you could overseed wet areas and dry areas with specific species adapted to wet conditions.

(3) Grazing/harvest management has resulted in thin, uneven and spotty growth

Has the pasture failed in certain areas because of traffic problems or under/over grazing? Before you reseed or overseed, consider whether you should change fencing arrangements, grazing patterns, water availability and other rotational management issues to prevent overgrazing and excess foot traffic. You can get much more feed value out of a well-managed intensive rotational grazing system than from continuous grazing on the same amount of land.

Once these possible causes have been considered/corrected, then it is time to determine whether planting new seed alone will solve the problems, or if a more intensive program of land improvement is needed.

If you decide to simply plant additional seed, the big challenge will be achieving good soil-seed contact. Very often, broadcasting seed onto an un-tilled old sod will result in much of the seed being caught in the thatch, never actually reaching the soil. This is particularly a problem with light-weight grass seed, but can be a problem with legumes too if the thatch is thick. Lightly disking the field, broadcasting and then rolling or cultipacking will result in much better soil contact.

For a quick fix, frost seeding medium red clover into a thinning pasture can fill in thin places and improve nutritive content, but as you spin on the seed in early spring, look hard at the existing growth and map out areas of concern to watch more closely. If there are poorly drained areas, consider an improved red clover like Manitoba that is more resistant to root diseases. Alfalfa and/or trefoil can be added to the frost seeding mix.

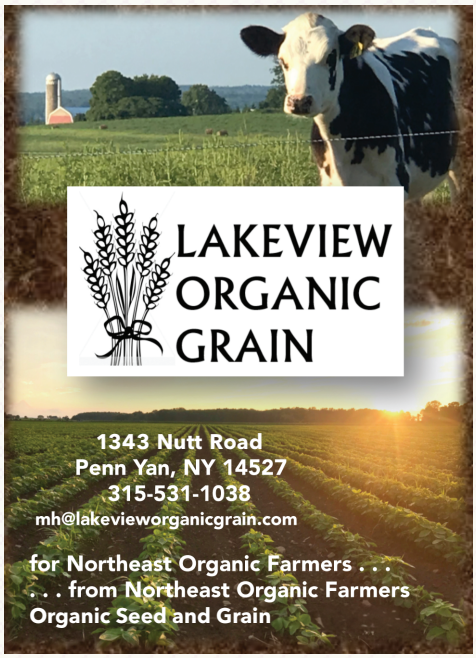
Species that tolerate droughty areas – orchardgrass, tall fescue, festilolium, bromegrass, alfalfa, Reed canary

Species that tolerate wet areas – red, alsike and white clover, meadow fescue, festilolium, Reed canarygrass

Choosing the right pasture grass and legume species that are suited to the soil, climatic, and intended use conditions on your farm is very important. A mixture of grass species is generally better than a single species to allow for adaptation to local conditions, and to give a range of maturities. A succession of maturities is more important in pastures than in hay fields.

Cornell University maintains a very useful online 'calculator' for New York that both allows farmers to model the hay and pasture grass/legume species that will thrive on their soil/location, and also has a n extensive 'library' of information on primary perennial forage species. http://forages.org/index.php/tools2/36-forage-species-selector-cat

From All of Us at Lakeview Organic Grain



We thank you for your continued business, friendship, support and your confidence!

We hope this holiday season finds you surrounded by comfortable and safe with family and friends, delicious food, healthy productive animals, barns full of hay, warm houses, love, kindness, good health and happiness!

Thank you for being here with us.

We hope that this has been a good and productive year for you because the success of your farm is important to us.

Please always feel free to stop by, give us a call (315-531-1038), or drop us an email (mh@lakevieworganicgrain.com). We are here to help.

Please let us know how we can better serve your needs!