

Organic Pea-Oat-Barley Mixtures

Nass¹, H.G. and D.H. Lynch²

¹Agriculture and Agra-food Canada Research Center, Charlottetown, PEI and ²Organic Agriculture Center of Canada, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, Nova Scotia.

Organic livestock producers need high protein feed for their animals. Field peas are high in protein. However, peas are prone to lodging and this may increase diseases in the crop. Three cultivars of peas were grown in several ratios of mixtures with oat and barley at the Harrington Research Farm in 2003. Plots received 20 tons ha⁻¹ of manure applied in spring. In pure stands the three pea cultivars achieved yields of 4 tons ha⁻¹ or greater while barley and oat yielded between 2 and 3 tons ha⁻¹. Various mixtures of pea-oat-barley did not reduce lodging of peas. 746-3 lodged considerably less than Miami and Carr era. The barley and oat in the plots appeared pale early in the growing season and may not have been able to obtain sufficient nutrients from the manure while the peas made their own nitrogen.

Corresponding author: nassh@agr.gc.ca