



## Corn Silage is Still the Best Option for Late Planted Forage

### June or July Corn Planting Options

When looking at crop species options for producing late–summer or fall forage, corn for silage still yields more during June and July planting dates as compared to crops like sorghum-sudangrass, soybeans, alfalfa, and small grains.

University of Wisconsin research shows corn silage is the best choice for emergency planting at any date and location in Wisconsin (Table 1). It can also achieve relatively high quality as compared with other alternative forage crops (Table 2).

Typically planting an early-season hybrid shows a quality advantage (Milk/T) over a full-season hybrid when planting is delayed into June.

When planting is delayed to mid-June or July, early-season and full-season hybrids produce similar silage yields and starch differences are small since grain development is limited no matter the hybrid maturity.

### Other Late-Planted Forage Options

#### Warm Season Grasses

Although lower yielding, growers may be interested in planting a crop that can be harvested earlier than corn silage for emergency forage. Warm season grasses, such as sorghum-sudangrass, may be options. Warm soil and growing conditions are required for these crops to succeed, and harvest may only be a few weeks ahead of when corn silage is harvested, with the first harvestable about 6 weeks after planting.

### Soybeans

Soybeans can be harvested as forage, and although they are lower yielding than corn silage, they have the potential to provide high quality forage with feed value similar to alfalfa due to high protein content.

A key issue with late-planted soybeans is their photoperiod response to day-length, which causes them to flower and set seed shortly after emergence, greatly limiting their height and forage yield potential when planted late.

