

# Opportunities for Millets 2026-2027

Source: North American Millets Alliance (NAMA)

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Supply status of various millets for 2026: Processors who want to incorporate a specific millet into their product lines need to know what millets are available in North America.<sup>1</sup> Except for field run (a.k.a. bin run) proso, it is highly recommended that processors and users contract supplies from reliable seed suppliers by May 2026 and schedule deliveries by September 2026.<sup>2</sup>

Since various millets will be harvested throughout North America in the fall of 2026, food and beverage processors and non-seed users should commit to pounds intended to be used before seed is treated for planting. To ensure high quality food products, it is highly recommended to also use NAMA's Proso Millet Grading Standards--

<https://millets2023.space/ProsoStandards.html> and

<https://youtu.be/AbLGbhi1g3g?si=0bTUwOoOJ3nHSSKT>.

(Note: Grain and seed millets are produced and stored the same way, except for hybrid pearl millet. Consequently, seed millets can be processed for edible consumption before any storage or seed treatments have been applied.)

<b>North American Millets Availability</b>					
Contact seed suppliers for high quality grains					
<b>Scientific name &amp; commonly used name</b>	<b>Varieties</b>	<b>Food marketing names<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Spring 2026</b>	<b>Fall 2026-2027 expected supplies</b>	<b>2026-2027 Recommendations</b>
<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> <b>proso millet</b>	proso (bin)	proso	Plentiful	Plentiful	Contract 2026 production helpful but not mandatory
	waxy/ Plateau proso	waxy proso	Limited	Available if contracted	Available if contracted
	food grade DLG317 proso	proso	Limited	Available if contracted	Available if contracted
<i>Setaria italica</i> <b>foxtail millet</b>		Italian millet, xiaomi, or kangni <sup>4</sup>	Expect high demand, some varieties limited	Expect shortages some varieties	Contract supplies by May 2026 for fall/winter 2026-27
<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i> ( <i>Cenchrus americanus</i> ) <b>pearl millet</b>		pearl millet, or bajra <sup>5</sup>	hybrid seed adequate, grain very limited	Very limited grain availability	Contract supplies by May 2026 for fall/winter 2026-27
<i>Echinochloa esculenta</i> <b>Japanese millet</b>		Japanese millet, or barnyard millet <sup>6</sup>	Limited	Expect shortages	Contract supplies by May 2026 for fall/winter 2026-27
<i>Urochloa ramosa</i> , ( <i>Brachiaria ramosa</i> ) <b>brown top millet</b>			Limited	Expect shortages in some local markets	Contract supplies by May 2026 for fall/winter 2026-27
<i>Eragrostis tef</i> <b>teff</b>		teff	Limited	Expect shortages	Contract supplies by May 2026 for fall/winter 2026-27

**Other millets:** *Eleusine coracana*, also known as finger millet or Ragi, is in experimental stage development in the U.S.

*Digitaria exilis* also known as Fonio, *Panicum sumatrense* better known as Little millet, and *Paspalum scrobiculatum* often referred to as Kodo are not produced in North America.

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<sup>1</sup> “Millet” is a generic term similar to “grain,” and is applied to as many as 20 separate crop species. The six presented in this table are significant crops in North America. Sorghum is often included among the millets, but its much more widely grown with numerous varieties, and as such it is better analyzed separately.

<sup>2</sup> Always contract using the trade name. Scientific name is recommended with a millet like Japanese that has more than one species or to eliminate species confusion

<sup>3</sup> These suggested trade names are based on the commonly used English name, or suggested as more suitable for optimal marketing purposes. It is anticipated that some of these may change.

<sup>4</sup> The term “foxtail” is problematic in American agriculture, as it also refers to a weedy grass. “Italian millet” is an established, but less commonly used name for *Setaria italica* (despite the name, the grain has ancient roots in China, which today produces more of it than any other country). “Xiaomi” (Mandarin Chinese) is familiar in the Chinese-American community, which is a significant market for this grain, and “kangni” is a Hindi name that would be recognizable in the Indian-American community.

<sup>5</sup> “Bajra” is a name for pearl millet that is widely used in India, and is familiar in the Indian-American community, which is a significant market for this grain.

<sup>6</sup> The term “barnyard millet” is more familiar internationally. It, and in the US, “Japanese millet,” are also used for a closely-related species, *Echinochloa frumentacea*, which is also edible. The latter is distinguished internationally as “Indian barnyard millet,” but in the US is sometimes also called “billion-dollar grass.”