



Orchardgrass

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Varietal Trials Results, January 2006



Orchardgrass is often used in hay and pasture mixes with other grasses and legumes because it establishes rapidly and recovers quickly after grazing or harvesting. Its major limitation is a lack of winterhardiness, but it can persist and remain productive for many years in areas with reliable snow cover.

Experimental plots were generally harvested three times per year at Rosemount and two or three times per year at Grand Rapids. Nitrogen was applied in the early spring and after each harvest at rate of 50 pounds per acre for each application.

Orchardgrass varieties were established in pure stands in 1997, 1998 and 2002 at Rosemount and in 1998 and 2002 at Grand Rapids.

Dry matter yield, in tons per acre, of orchardgrass varieties seeded at two locations.

Variety	Winter Injury*		Rosemount			Grand Rapids	
	05/01/03	1998-2000	1999-2002	2003-2005	1990-1994	1999-2001	2004-2005
AC Nordic	—	—	3.4	—	—	3.7	—
Albert	—	—	—	—	—	3.9	—
Ambassador	—	4.4	—	—	3.5	3.6	—
Bengal	—	—	3.5	—	—	—	—
Condor	—	4.5	—	—	—	3.8	—
Crown	—	4.5	—	—	3.5	—	—
Dawn	—	—	—	—	3.6	—	—
Duke	2.8	4.8	3.5	3.7	—	3.8	1.6
Elsie	—	—	3.4	—	3.5	3.5	—
Extend	4.5	—	—	3.6	—	—	1.6
Haymate	—	4.5	—	—	—	3.7	—
Hawkeye	4	—	3.8	3.8	—	3.9	1.6
Justus	4	4.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	1.5
Megabite	3.5	—	3.8	3.8	—	3.7	1.7
Mammoth	—	—	3.7	—	—	—	—
Napier	—	4.3	—	—	3.6	—	—
Orbit	—	3.6	—	—	3.4	—	—
Orion	3.8	4.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	4.1	1.4
Potomac	2.8	4.4	3.3	3.8	3.5	—	1.3
Shawnee	—	—	—	—	—	3.0	—
Sterling	—	—	—	—	3.4	—	—
Warrior	4.5	—	3.5	3.4	—	—	1.5
LSD 5%	1.5	0.4	0.2	NS	NS	0.4	NS

* Winter injury, Rosemount; 1 = no injury; 9 = dead.

Orchardgrass Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds	14
Seeds/Pound	653,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
Alone	10
In Mixtures	3
Planting Rate, Seeds/Sq. Ft.	
Alone	150
In Mixtures	45
Planting Date	
Alone	Early Spring or Late Summer
In Mixtures	Use Date for Legume