



Birdsfoot Trefoil

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Varietal Trials Results, January 2007



Birdsfoot trefoil is an excellent non-bloating pasture legume that can also be harvested for hay and silage. It grows under a wide range of soil conditions, and persists longer and performs better than other legumes under poor soil conditions such as low fertility, acidity and poor drainage. It is also persistent when grown with Kentucky bluegrass, reed canarygrass and timothy.

Performance trials of birdsfoot trefoil were established at Rosemount in 1997, 1998, 2001 and 2003, and at Grand Rapids in 1998 and 2001. The trials are generally harvested twice at Grand Rapids and two or three times at Rosemount.

New releases, Steadfast, a rhizomatous birdsfoot trefoil out of Missouri, and Pardee out of Cornell, were significantly lower yielding than other varieties in the trial and may not be winterhardy enough to be grown in Minnesota.

Winterhardy varieties, such as Norcen, generally produce the highest consistent overall yields. Norcen was released in 1983 by the agricultural experiment stations of Minnesota and six other states and has performed exceptionally well in grazing trials.

Dry matter yield, in tons dry matter per acre, of birdsfoot trefoil varieties seeded at 2 locations.

Variety	Winter Injury,* 5/24/2004	Rosemount				Grand Rapids	
		1998	1999-01	2002	2004-06	1999-01	2002-04
Bright	—	3.6	3.1	—	—	—	—
Dawn	1	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.4	4.8	2.1
Empire	—	4.0	—	—	—	4.4	—
Fergus	—	3.9	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia	1	—	3.6	—	—	4.6	1.8
Leo	—	3.9	3.1	—	—	—	—
Norcen	1	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.9	4.8	2.1
Nueltin	1	3.7	3.1	4.0	3.4	4.2	2.2
Pardee	8.3	—	—	3.5	0.1	—	1.9
Roseau	2.5	4.1	3.4	4.1	3.5	4.6	2.1
Steadfast	—	3.1	2.7	—	—	3.5	—
Trevig	—	4.1	—	4.2	—	—	—
Viking	1.8	3.8	3.6	4.0	4.1	4.4	2.1
Witt	—	4	3.2	4.1	—	—	2.0
LSD@5%	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2

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

Seed Sources for Alternate Forage Plots.

Deer Creek Seed	PO Box 105, Ashland, WI 54806	877-247-3736
Pickseed	Box 304, 1 Greenfield Rd., Lindsay, ON K9V 4S3	800-268-2806
Norfarm Seed	RR 2, Box 37, Roseau, MN 56751	218-463-2119
Etheridge Farm	1950 Lane 11, Powell, WY 82435	307-754-2371
Allied Seed	9311 Highway 45 Lane, Nampa, ID 83686	888-252-7573
Brett Young LTD	PO Box 99, St. Norbert PS, Winnipeg, MB R3V 1L5	800-665-5015
Agri Pro	PO Box 30, Berthoud, CO 80513	877-943-2827
Cascade Seed	1406 E. Front Ave., Spokane, WA 99220	509-534-9431
Pure Seed Testing	PO Box 449, Hubbard OR 97032	503-263-0742
Twin City Seed	7265 Washington Ave. S., Edina, M 55439	952-944-7105
General Feed and Grain	7128 3rd St., Bonner Ferrys, ID 83805	208-267-3185
Geertson Seed	1665 Burroughs Rd., Adrian OR 97901	800-843-0390
Lethridge Research Centre	PO Box 3000, Lethbridge, AB Canada T1J4B1	403-327-4561
Northern Excellence	PO. Box 186, Williams, MN 56686	218-783-2214

Birdsfoot Trefoil Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds.....	65
Seeds/Pound.....	372,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
Alone.....	8
In Mixtures.....	6
Planting Rate, Seeds/Sq.Ft.	
Alone.....	70
In Mixtures.....	50
Planting Date...Early Spring or Summer	