



Birdsfoot Trefoil

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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 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2010 and at

Birdsfoot Trefoil Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds.....	60
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	

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

Variety	% Stand 6/1/11	Rosemount				Grand Rapids		
		1999-01	2002	2004-6	2011	1999-01	2002-4	2007-10
AC Langille	49	—	—	—	3.7	—	—	—
Bright	—	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bruce	93	—	—	—	5.4	—	—	—
Dawn	—	3.8	4.0	4.4	—	4.8	2.1	4.2
Empire	80	—	—	—	5.1	4.4	—	4.1
Fergus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia 1	—	3.6	—	—	—	4.6	1.8	—
Leo	—	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norcen	91	3.5	3.9	3.9	5.3	4.8	2.1	3.9
Nueltin	—	3.1	4.0	3.4	—	4.2	2.2	—
Pardee	91	—	3.5	0.1	4.5	—	1.9	4.2
Roseau	—	3.4	4.1	3.5	—	4.6	2.1	—
Steadfast	—	2.7	—	—	—	3.5	—	—
Trevig	—	—	4.2	—	—	—	—	—
Viking	—	3.6	4.0	4.1	—	4.4	2.1	—
Witt	—	3.2	4.1	—	—	—	2.0	4.2
LSD@5%	8	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.2

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 Canada K9V 4S3	800-268-2806
Norfarm Seed	31154 430th Ave., Roseau, MN 56751	218-463-2119
Allied Seed	9311 Highway 45 Lane, Nampa, ID 83686	888-252-7573
Brett Young LTD	PO Box 99, St. Norbert PS, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3V 1L5	800-665-5015
Albert Lea Seed House	PO Box 127, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-373-3161
Agri Pro	PO Box 30, Berthoud, CO 80513	877-943-2827
Cascade Seed	1406 E. Front Ave., Spokane, WA 99220	509-534-9431
Twin City Seed	7265 Washington Ave. S., Edina, MN 55439	952-944-7105
Geertson Seed	PO Box 205, Greenleaf, ID 83626	800-843-0390
Lethbridge Research Centre	PO Box 3000, Lethbridge, AB Canada T1J4B1	403-327-4561
Northern Excellence	PO Box 186, Williams, MN 56686	218-783-2214

Grand Rapids in 1998, 2001 and 2006. The trials are generally harvested twice at Grand Rapids and two or three times at Rosemount.

Winterhardiness is very important and only adapted varieties should be planted. The variety Norcen was released jointly in 1983 by the agriculture experiment stations of Minnesota and six other north central states; it has been a standard ever since. It is winterhardy and has performed well in grazing trials.

Consult forage management specialists for other varieties that may be appropriate for your area.

Please note: No trials of brome-grass, cicer milkvetch, kura clover, orchardgrass, red clover, reed canarygrass, tall fescue or timothy were conducted in 2011.

The most recent information on these crops is available on the web at www.maes.umn.edu. At this site click on Commodity/Crop Links, then on Varietal Trials, which will display a crops listing.