BROMEGRASS

Bromegrass is generally grown for hay in mixture with alfalfa, or is used as pasture in mixture with other grasses and legumes. Varieties can be classed as southern, intermediate and northern types. Varieties of the southern type may not be higher yielding but are generally less susceptible to leaf diseases and earlier in maturity than northern types. All varieties are winterhardy. Some stand losses may occur when bromegrass is managed under three- and four-cut alfalfa harvest systems.

Varieties are currently being evaluated in pure stands at Minnesota experiment stations with a three cut harvest system. Nitrogen was applied at all locations in early spring and after the first two harvests at a rate of 40 to 50 pounds per acre. Average dry matter yields were very high in 1998-99 and few differences were found between performance of the varieties. Stand losses on all entries included in the table were noted in Rosemount after the first harvest in 1999, except for the variety "York".

Dry matter yield, tons dry matter per acre, of smooth bromegrass seeded at two locations, 1998.

Variety	Rosemount 1998-2000	Morris 1999-2000
Alpha	5.2	2.6
Badger	4.6	2.5
Bounty	5.1	2.7
Lincoln [1]	4.8	–
York	5.4	2.7
LSD 5%	0.3	NS

[1] The Lincoln seedlot has low germination, which resulted in poor stand establishment.

Bromegrass Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds 14
Seeds/Pound.....136,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre
Alone 16
In Mixtures.....5
Planting Rate, Seeds Sq.Ft.
Alone 50
In Mixtures.....15
Planting Date.....Early Spring or Late Summer