

ORCHARDGRASS

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 in areas with reliable snow cover.

Orchardgrass varieties were established in pure stands in 1998 and 1999 at Rosemount and Grand Rapids and in 1997 at Rosemount and Morris.

Experimental plots were generally harvested three times per year. The Morris location was harvested only twice in 1999. Nitrogen was applied in the early

spring and after each harvest at rate of 50 pounds per acre.

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

Dry matter yield, tons dry matter per acre, of orchardgrass varieties seeded at three locations.

Variety	Maturity ¹	Grand Rapids		Rosemount		Morris
		1990-1994	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999
AC Nordic	L	–	4.6	–	4.3	–
Albert	–	–	4.5	–	–	–
Ambassador	I	3.5	4.5	4.4	–	2.0
Bengal	I	–	–	–	4.3	–
Condor	–	–	4.7	4.5	–	2.0
Crown	I	3.5	–	4.5	–	2.0
Dawn	L	3.6	–	–	–	–
Duke	L	–	4.7	4.8	4.3	2.3
Elsie	I	3.5	4.5	–	4.1	–
Haymate	L	–	4.6	4.5	–	2.2
Hawkeye	I	–	4.7	–	4.5	–
Justus	I	3.4	4.2	4.5	4.3	2.1
Megabite	I	–	4.6	–	4.6	–
Mammoth	E	–	–	–	4.4	–
Napier	I	3.6	–	4.3	–	1.7
Orbit	–	3.4	–	3.6	–	2.2
Orion	L	3.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	2.3
Potomac	E	3.5	–	4.4	4.1	2.1
Sterling	I	3.4	–	–	–	–
Warrior	I	–	–	–	4.4	–
LSD 5%		NS	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4

¹ Maturity: E=early, I=intermediate, L=late