

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 Rose-

mount 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.

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

Variety	Grand Rapids		Rosemount		Morris
	1990-1994	1999-2001	1998-2000	1999-2001	1999-2001
AC Nordic	–	3.7	–	3.7	–
Albert	–	3.9	–	–	–
Ambassador	3.5	3.6	4.4	–	2.6
Bengal	–	–	–	3.7	–
Condor	–	3.8	4.5	–	2.6
Crown	3.5	–	4.5	–	2.6
Dawn	3.6	–	–	–	–
Duke	–	3.8	4.8	3.7	3.1
Elsie	3.5	3.5	–	3.5	–
Haymate	–	3.7	4.5	–	2.7
Hawkeye	–	3.9	–	4.0	–
Justus	3.4	3.4	4.5	3.7	2.7
Megabite	–	3.7	–	4.0	–
Mammoth	–	–	–	3.9	–
Napier	3.6	–	4.3	–	2.1
Orbit	3.4	–	3.6	–	2.8
Orion	3.7	4.1	4.7	4.0	3.2
Potomac	3.5	–	4.4	3.6	2.6
Shawnee ¹	–	3.0	–	–	–
Sterling	3.4	–	–	–	–
Warrior	–	–	–	3.8	–
LSD 5%	NS	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8

¹ Shawnee seedlot received for testing had poor germination and did not establish at Rosemount and Morris.

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