

# 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 1997, 1998 and 1999 at Rosemount and Grand Rapids and in 1997 at 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 the first and second harvest at rate of 50 pounds per acre for each application.

## ***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, in tons dry matter per acre, of orchardgrass varieties seeded at three locations.**

Variety	Winter Injury 5/1/03	Rosemount			Grand Rapids		Morris
		1998-2000	1999-2002	2003	1990-1994	1999-2001	1999-2001
AC Nordic	—	—	3.4	—	—	3.7	—
Albert	—	—	—	—	—	3.9	—
Ambassador	—	4.4	—	—	3.5	3.6	2.6
Bengal	—	—	3.5	—	—	—	—
Condor	—	4.5	—	—	—	3.8	2.6
Crown	—	4.5	—	—	3.5	—	2.6
Dawn	—	—	—	—	3.6	—	—
Duke	2.8	4.8	3.5	4.1	—	3.8	3.1
Elsie	—	—	3.4	—	3.5	3.5	—
Extend	4.5	—	—	4.2	—	—	—
Haymate	—	4.5	—	—	—	3.7	2.7
Hawkeye	4.0	—	3.8	4.1	—	3.9	—
Justus	4.0	4.5	3.5	4.3	3.4	3.4	2.7
Megabite	3.5	—	3.8	4.2	—	3.7	—
Mammoth	—	—	3.7	—	—	—	—
Napier	—	4.3	—	—	3.6	—	2.1
Orbit	—	3.6	—	—	3.4	—	2.8
Orion	3.8	4.7	3.7	4.3	3.7	4.1	3.2
Potomac	2.8	4.4	3.3	4.6	3.5	—	2.6
Sterling	—	—	—	—	3.4	—	—
Warrior	4.5	—	3.5	4.4	—	—	—
LSD 5%	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.6	NS	0.4	0.8

\* Winter Injury, Rosemount, 9 = worst.

**Red Clover  
Planting Rate and Date**

Bushel Weight, Pounds .....	65
Seeds/Pound.....	272,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
Alone .....	9
In Mixtures.....	5
Planting Rate, Seeds Sq.Ft.	
Alone .....	50
In Mixtures.....	30
Planting Date	
Alone .....	Early Spring to September 1
In Mixtures.....	Use Date for Legume