

TIMOTHY

Timothy is adapted throughout Minnesota for use in hay and pasture mixes. When timothy is the major component in hay its stage of maturity affects both yield and quality. Harvesting timothy at early heading is the preferred time.

Timothy produces the majority of its forage at the first harvest.

Varieties of timothy differ in maturity, so care should be taken in choosing those that fit the management requirements of the crop and mixture. Early varieties are best adapted to a three-cut system with alfalfa.

Varieties that are intermediate to late maturing should not be harvested more than twice during the growing season. Therefore, appropriately selected

timothy varieties are compatible with red clover and birdsfoot trefoil in mixtures for hay production. Varieties in the

experiment station timothy trials were established in pure stands in 1992 at Rosemount and Morris and at Grand Rapids in 1993. Trials also were established at Rosemount and Grand Rapids in 1999 and 2002.

Trials were harvested two or three times per year. Nitrogen was applied at all locations in the early spring and after the first and second harvests at a rate of 50 pounds per acre.

Early-maturing varieties of timothy had greater forage production than the late maturing varieties at all locations over all harvest years. Quality forage may be maintained later in the season with the later varieties. Timothy is normally less persistent than other cool-season grasses such as reed canarygrass.

Timothy Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds	45
Seeds/Pound.....	1,234,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
In Mixtures.....	3
Planting Rate, Seeds Sq.Ft.	
In Mixtures.....	85
Planting Date	
In Mixtures.....	Use Date for Legume

Dry-matter yields, in tons dry matter per acre, of timothy seeded at three locations.

Variety	Vigor,** 5/1/03	Rosemount			Grand Rapids			Morris
		1993-1995	2000-2002	2003	1994-1996	2000-2002	2003	1993-1996
Early to intermediate maturity								
Aurora	6.3	—	3.3	2.9	—	3.3	1.9	—
Climax*	2	3.8	3.4	2.5	3.6	3.0	—	4.0
Colt	4.8	—	3.7	3.1	—	3.3	1.8	—
Comtal	5.8	3.7	3	2.5	3.4	2.8	1.7	—
Itasca*	2.5	—	—	2.6	—	—	—	—
Goliath	—	3.4	—	—	3.4	—	—	—
Promesse	6	—	3.1	2.5	—	3.1	1.7	—
Summit	7.3	—	—	3.2	—	—	1.6	—
Timfor	5.8	3.8	—	3	3.5	—	1.8	—
Toro	—	3.9	—	—	3.7	—	—	—
Late maturity								
Heidemij	—	3.0	—	—	3.5	—	—	3.5
Hokusen	—	3.4	—	—	3.3	—	—	3.6
Motim	—	—	3.4	—	—	2.8	—	—
LSD 5%	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	NS	NS

* Poor initial germination, reseeded later in 2002 trial. ** Vigor, Rosemount rating- 9=best, 1=least.