

# TIMOTHY

Timothy is adapted throughout Minnesota for use in hay and pasture mixes and is very winterhardy. When timothy is the major component in hay its stage of maturity affects both yield and quality. Early heading is the preferred time to harvest timothy; most of its forage yield is at the first harvest.

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

Intermediate- to late-maturing varieties should not be harvested more than twice during the growing season. 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 at Rosemount in 1992 and at Grand Rapids in 1999 and 2002.

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

While 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 normally does not persist well under heavy grazing pressure.

## Dry matter yields, tons per acre, of timothy seeded at two locations.

Variety	Seedlot	Heading, % 6/7/04	Rosemount			Grand Rapids		
			1993-95	2000-02	2003-04	1994-96	2000-02	2003
<b>Early to intermediate maturity:</b>								
Aurora	3299	25.0	—	3.3	3.8	—	3.3	1.9
Climax	3171	1.0	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.0	—
Colt	3246	3.5	—	3.7	4.1	—	3.3	1.8
Comtal	3245	1.0	3.7	3	3.3	3.4	2.8	1.7
Itasca	3272	2.5	—	—	3.8	—	—	—
Goliath	2758	—	3.4	—	—	3.4	—	—
Promesse	3296	1.0	—	3.1	3.2	—	3.1	1.7
Summit	3463	65.0	—	—	4.1	—	—	1.6
Timfor	2876	1.0	3.8	—	3.8	3.5	—	1.8
Toro	2877	—	3.9	—	—	3.7	—	—
<b>Late maturity:</b>								
Heidemij	2715	—	3.0	—	—	3.5	—	—
Hokusen	2863	—	3.4	—	—	3.3	—	—
Motim	3172	—	—	3.4	—	—	2.8	—
<b>Experimental:</b>								
TM 9501	3404	68	—	—	3.9	—	—	—
LSD 5%		10.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2

### 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