



Timothy

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Varietal Trials Results, January 2007



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, which produces the majority of its forage 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.

Late-maturing varieties should not be harvested more than twice during the growing season. They may be more appropriate in mixes with birdsfoot trefoil or red clover. While early maturing varieties of timothy had greater forage production than the late-maturing varieties at all trials locations over all harvest years, quality forage may be maintained later in the season with the later varieties. Timothy does not normally persist well under heavy grazing pressure.

Varieties in the experiment station timothy trials were established in pure stands at Rosemount in 1992, 1999 and 2002, and at Grand Rapids in 1993, 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.

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 2 locations.

Variety	% Heading 6/7/2004	Rosemount*			Grand Rapids*		
		1993-1995	2000-02	2003-05*	1994-1996	2000-02	2003-05*
Early-Intermediate:							
Aurora	25	—	3.3	3.6	—	3.3	1.8
Climax	1	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.0	2.0
Colt	4	—	3.7	4.0	—	3.3	1.7
Comtal	1	3.7	3.0	3.2	3.4	2.8	1.7
Itasca	3	—	—	3.8	—	—	2.0
Goliath	—	3.4	—	—	3.4	—	—
Promesse	1	—	3.1	3.1	—	3.1	1.6
Summit	65	—	—	4.1	—	—	1.6
Timfor	1	3.8	—	3.8	3.5	—	1.7
Toro	—	3.9	—	—	3.7	—	—
Late maturity:							
Heidemij	—	3.0	—	—	3.5	—	—
Hokusen	—	3.4	—	—	3.3	—	—
Motim	—	—	3.4	—	—	2.8	—
LSD 5%	10	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2

*= 2004-2005 yields only.

These data are the most recent available.