

Smooth Bromegrass

Smooth bromegrass is a deep-rooted, sod-forming grass that grows best on fertile, well-drained soils with pH above 6.0. It will not tolerate frequent cutting. Spring harvest should be made before jointing or after the early flower stage of development to ensure maximum smooth bromegrass persistence. This restriction on harvesting makes bromegrass unsuitable in mixtures with alfalfa that will be harvested at the bud stage. However, mixtures with legumes that will not be harvested before 1/10 bloom are excellent. Smooth bromegrass is a good cool-season grass for, but proper management is essential to obtain adequate yield and persistence.

FORAGE FIRST® FACTOR

Bromegrass can be challenging for many livestock producers and hay producers. Typically, this sod-forming grass has a shortened grazing or harvest window, compared to other cool-season grasses. Because bromegrass spreads rapidly by seeds and rhizomes, it can become increasingly dominant in pastures and paddocks. Boosting stocking rates in spring and fall and either moderate use or rotating away from bromegrass during the summer will help year-round utilization.

SMOOTH BROMEGRASS CHARACTERISTICS

ESTABLISHMENT	SLOW
PERSISTENCE	HIGH
DROUGHT TOLERANCE	MED
WINTER HARDINESS	MED
PALATABILITY	HIGH
YIELD POTENTIAL	HIGH
GRAZING TOLERANCE	HIGH

PLANTING TIMES

SPRING PLANTING MAR - MAY

FALL PLANTING AUG - SEP

LIFE CYCLE PERENNIAL

SEEDING RATE (LBS/ACRE)

ALONE 15 - 20

MIXES 5 - 10

EMERGENCE (DAYS) 14 - 21

ROTATIONAL GRAZING

ALONE 10 - 12

MIXES 4 - 6

EMERGENCE (DAYS) 20 - 30

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

BROMEGRASS IS TOLERANT OF GRAZING IN SPRING BEFORE THE GROWING POINT EMERGES FROM BELOW THE GROUND; AFTER JOINTING, FREQUENT HARVEST CAN DESTROY STANDS. MECHANICAL HARVEST AT BOOT TO EARLY BLOOM STAGE.



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