



Intensiv Orchardgrass



Intensiv Orchardgrass is a high yielding, late-maturing, winter-hardy variety of exceptional quality. Intensiv was bred specifically for increased animal nutrition by producing forage that is highly palatable and easily digestible. This quality is achieved by creating a plant with greater leafiness and by reducing the indigestible lignin component of the plant fiber. The benefits of this breeding are an increase in milk and meat production. Intensiv has robust seedling vigor making it quick to establish. This feature combined with excellent winter-hardiness, heat and drought tolerance, and outstanding disease resistance insures a long stand life.

Adaptation—Climate

Intensiv is ideally suited to the northern and central regions of the United States. Its exceptional winter-hardiness, late maturity and summer heat tolerance make it an ideal choice for pasture grazing, hay production and as a companion with alfalfa.

Adaptation—Soil

Intensiv grows best in light, well drained upland soils. It will perform on lowland heavier soils if they are not prone to excessive wetness.

Uses

Intensiv is effective in grazing and haying situations. It can be seeded either alone or as a mixture component. For grazing, seed with a large-leaved white clover such as Alice. For silage, seed with a premium red clover such as Freedom! or a high quality alfalfa adapted to your region. For dry hay, seed alone, with a premium red clover such as Freedom! or a high quality alfalfa adapted to your region. Given its late maturity and excellent winter-hardiness, it is an ideal companion for alfalfa. Interplanting with alfalfa can be used to improve stand yield, extend longevity and reduce the risks of winterkill and pest damage associated with growing a pure stand.



At A Glance

Key Features

- Late-maturing
- Quick to establish
- High-yielding
- Exceptional palatability and digestibility
- Excellent winter-hardiness
- Outstanding disease resistance

Establishment

- Use the large box of the drill
- **Seeding rate:** 20-25 lbs/acre
- **Broadcast seeding rate:** 40 lbs/A
- **Seeding with alfalfa:** 5-10 lbs/acre

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Management

Orchardgrass is categorized as a bunch grass. Careful stand management during the first year is essential for long-term productivity. Orchardgrass grows and spreads laterally by creating new shoots called tillers which emanate from the base of the plant forming an ever-wider bunch. To enable the production of a leafy dense stand, the height of the stand during the first year should ideally be maintained in the 4-12 inch range. This allows full sunlight penetration to the plant base which triggers production of the tillers needed for maximum plant growth and spread. Once the seedlings are firmly rooted, graze lightly by calves, or machine mow several times before heavy use. This will promote further tillering and growth. To enhance production in subsequent years, a spring application of 50 lbs/acre of nitrogen is recommended to jump start early growth, followed by periodic applications of 30-40 lbs/acre timed with rainfall or irrigation. In mild winter areas an early fall application of 50 lbs/acre of nitrogen can extend the harvest period well beyond the normal season. Cold winter survival is enhanced by entering winter with the grass left at a short but still green 4-5 inch height.

Establishment

Intensiv exhibits exceptional seedling vigor and establishes rapidly. When planting north of the transition zone, Intensiv should be planted in the early spring or late summer to take advantage of soil moisture and moderate temperatures. In the transition zone, planting should occur in the late summer or early fall. Prior to planting, take a soil test and apply adequate phosphorous and potassium if necessary. At planting, apply 35-40 lbs/acre nitrogen to ensure good establishment. Intensiv may be established via full cultivation, no-till, or broadcast seeding. Plant no deeper than 1/4 inch below the surface in a firm seed bed.

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