

Century Orchardgrass

Century (exp. No. OG9202) is an early-medium maturing orchardgrass variety, reaching 50% anthesis approximately two days later than Potomac and seven days earlier than Pennlate. It is taller in plant height than Potomac and Pennlate. The flag leaf of Century is longer than Potomac and Pennlate, and its panicle length is longer than Potomac and shorter than Pennlate. The seven parent clones of Century were selected on the basis of progeny forage yield in Indiana, and progeny seed yield in Washington. All clones were selected from FFR breeding lines.

History

Orchardgrass is a long-lived, perennial bunchgrass, adapted to the northwest, Midwest, and northeast regions of the United States. Properly managed, orchardgrass will provide a persistent, high yielding pasture with excellent quality forage. These characteristics of orchardgrass have resulted in widespread utilization for pasture, hay, green-chop, and silage.

Application

Century can be used as monoculture as well as in mixtures with other perennial grasses or utilized in mixtures with legumes (alfalfa, clovers, etc.) to increase forage quality and decrease nitrogen inputs. Because of its widespread characteristics, Century is ideally suited for utilization for pasture, hay, green-chop and silage.

Management Tips

Century needs to be grazed at regular intervals to take advantage of the high palatability and digestibility in the young growth stage. This means that relatively early in the season, grazing needs to start. Nutritional value of orchardgrass diminishes once seed heads emerge. When grown for hay, Century should be harvested in the boot stage for maximum nutritional value. Century combines well with alfalfa because maturities coincide well.

2002 Yield and Heading Data Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Planted 2001

Variety	20-May 2002	30-June 2002	18-Aug 2002	25-Oct 2002	Total Season	Heading Date	Number of Heads
Century	3.28	1.83	1.49	1.02	7.62	15-May	4
Potomac	2.99	1.5	1.33	0.94	7.21	15-May	34
Prairial	3.2	2.01	1.23	0.88	7.33	24-May	4
Sparta	3.11	1.69	1.24	0.98	7.03	24-May	9
Niva	3.29	1.77	1.30	0.93	7.30	24-May	20
Stampede	3.15	1.90	1.39	1.07	7.51	24-May	>100
Icon	3.35	1.89	1.43	1.03	7.70	24-May	>50
Intensive	3.31	2.07	1.24	0.86	7.47	24-May	20
LSD @ 5%	0.21	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.37	-	-

Features

- ▶ Good winter hardiness and rust resistance
- ▶ Performs best on well-drained soils
- ▶ High yielding pasture with proper management

Benefits

- ▶ High nutritive value of highly digestible forage
- ▶ Performs well in mono-stand or in mixtures with perennial grasses
- ▶ Greater heat and drought tolerance than bluegrass, ryegrass and timothy

Seeding Rate

- ▶ Seeding rates for Century depend on the region, soil type, etc
- ▶ In monoculture, a rate of 15-20 pounds per acre should be sufficient
- ▶ In mixtures this amount can be reduced to 50% or less of the total
- ▶ A seeder, seeding at the shallow depth of about 1/4-inch with press wheels, or the use of a culti-packer, ensures a good stand establishment

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SEED RESEARCH FORAGE DATA SHEET

2003 Yield & Percent Stand

Ithaca, NY

Planted 2001

Variety	2003				Sum Total Over 2 Years		
	Yield Tons/Acres	Yield of Cks Tons/Acres	% of Ck. Mean	% of Stand October	Yield Tons/Acres	Yield of Cks Tons/Acres	% of Ck. Mean
Century	7.57	6.63	114	85	15.19	14.12	108
Icon	7.59	6.63	115	88	15.30	14.12	108
Potomac	7.20	6.63	109	87	14.41	14.12	102
Stampede	6.96	6.63	105	86	14.47	14.12	102
Albert	6.87	6.63	104	86	14.28	14.12	101
Niva	6.76	6.63	102	81	14.06	14.12	100
Sparta	6.23	6.63	94	82	13.26	14.12	94