

SEED RESEARCH FORAGE DATA SHEET

Command

ORCHARDGRASS

Command orchardgrass represents another step forward in the development of a top performing, late maturity orchardgrass. Developed by Farm Forage Research, (FFR), **Command** is the product of eight parent clones selected for improved yield, color, disease resistance, nutritional value, high leaf to stem ratio, winter hardiness and persistence. **Command** reaches 50% antithesis approximately 5-7 days later than Pennlate and Haymate orchardgrass, making it an excellent companion species for alfalfa or any application where late heading is important.

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

Command 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, **Command** is ideally suited for utilization for pasture, hay, green-chop and silage.

Management Tips

Command 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, **Command** should be harvested in the boot stage for maximum nutritional value. **Command** combines well with alfalfa because maturities coincide well.

Benefits

- ▶ Late maturity-later than Pennlate, Haymate
- ▶ Excellent in pure stands, pasture mixtures or with alfalfa
- ▶ Strong dry matter yields with high nutrient content
- ▶ Improved disease resistance, including rust
- ▶ Fast recovery for multiple harvests
- ▶ Excellent color for improved visual impact
- ▶ Very leafy right up to the top of the plant
- ▶ Winter-hardy and stress

Seeding Rate

- ▶ Seeding rates for **Command** 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

Performance Data – Forage Yield

FFR Data over Locations and Years
DM = Dry Matter

Entry	North		South		Total	
	L/Y*	% Mean	L/Y*	% Mean	L/Y*	% Mean
Command (OG9703)	13	104	6	104	19	104
Benchmark	13	99	6	107	19	101
Potomac	11	97	6	98	17	97
Pennlate	11	98	6	93	17	97

*L/Y = location years



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Ohio State University Extension
2003 Data*
Tons/Acre Dry Matter

<i>Variety</i>	<i>June 30, 2003</i>	<i>Harvest Date 2 Sept. 9, 2003</i>	<i>Harvest Date 1 2003</i>	<i>Maturity Group</i>
Command	.45	2.51	2.95	Late
Icon	.57	2.40	2.97	Mid
Megabite	.26	2.64	2.89	Mid
Potomac	.52	2.28	2.81	Early
Pennlate	.51	2.25	2.76	Late
Mean	.46	2.44	2.89	---
LSD @5%	.14	NS	NS	---

Performance Data – Forage Yield
FFR data over locations and years

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Data Years</i>	<i>% of the Mean Yield</i>
Command	19	103.8
Pizza	8	102.1
Haymate	19	101.4
Potomac	17	96.9
Pennlate	17	96.6
Progress	13	96.3

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