



SEED RESEARCH FORAGE DATA SHEET

Elgon

Tetraploid Perennial
R Y E G R A S S

Elgon is a late maturing tetraploid perennial ryegrass that has performed extremely well in many countries. Elgon is an exceptionally high yielding variety under grazing as well as under cutting. The variety has very good resistance to crown rust and has good winter hardiness. Elgon has an erect growth habit and produces a slightly open sward. Scientific feeding trials conducted in Northern Ireland showed that Elgon had the highest DM intake of any variety tested, and that cows fed Elgon produced up to four pounds more milk per day compared to cows fed diploid perennials. Elgon is also a top yielding variety in official trials in British Columbia, Canada.

History

Tetraploid perennial ryegrass is the most digestible of the cool season perennial forage grasses. Milk production and weight gains are higher from tetraploid perennial ryegrass than from other forage grasses. Elgon was selected from European germ plasm for improved crown rust resistance, increased dry matter yields and high DM intake.

Application

Due to its increased yields, Elgon is ideally suited for:

- ▶ Intensive grazing
- ▶ Harvesting for haylage

Management Tips

For best performance follow preferred management practices for producing high, quality forages. Plant on a firm well-drained seed bed and fertilize to soil test recommendations. Harvest when Elgon is in the boot stage when grown as a mono-stand. When blended with a legume, harvest when the legume reaches peak quality.

To optimize grazing performance and to promote increased tillering, the height of the pasture should be maintained between 3 to 10 inches. Avoid allowing Elgon from becoming overly mature.

Features

- ▶ Increased dry matter yield
- ▶ Excellent crown rust resistance
- ▶ High dry matter intake
- ▶ Open canopy

Benefits

- ▶ Increased animal production
- ▶ Increased yields, palatability & intake
- ▶ Increased milk and meat production
- ▶ Excellent blending compatibility with other species

Seeding Rate

- ▶ Seeding rates vary from region to region and according to soil type. Consult your professional seedsman for local advice and assistance. For a general guideline, the following seeding rates have proven satisfactory
- ▶ Overseeding: 40-50 lbs. per acre
- ▶ Planted with a companion crop: 15-20 lbs per acre
- ▶ New Seeding: 20-25 lbs. per acre

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Perennial Ryegrass Yields Summarized Over Years and Locations

(Total Tons DM/Acre)

<i>Variety</i>	<i>21-May 2002</i>	<i>2-July 2002</i>	<i>21-Aug 2002</i>	<i>8-Oct 2002</i>	<i>Total Season</i>	<i>2 year Total</i>	<i>Heading Date</i>	<i>Number of Heads</i>
Elgon	1.29	2.46	0.34	0.46	4.55	10.02	3-June	4
Bastion	1.63	1.68	0.27	0.36	3.95	9.00	24-May	3
Vela	1.92	1.29	0.43	0.35	3.95	8.94	24-May	3
Renovator	1.91	1.60	0.24	0.35	4.10	8.76	28-May	11
Tonga	1.96	1.41	0.33	0.37	4.07	9.14	28-May	12
Citadel	1.52	2.07	0.26	0.37	4.23	8.77	31-May	9
Aubisque	1.62	1.99	0.29	0.41	4.31	9.44	30-May	10
Barforte	1.45	2.21	0.28	0.41	4.36	9.07	3-May	30
Herbie	1.30	2.43	0.33	0.39	4.45	9.31	6-June	5
Feeder	1.24	2.47	0.31	0.52	4.54	9.50	6-June	8
<i>LSD @ 5%</i>	<i>0.19</i>	<i>0.20</i>	<i>0.09</i>	<i>0.15</i>	<i>0.27</i>	<i>0.40</i>	-	-