

Pizza

Orchardgrass

Pizza is an improved, **late maturity** orchardgrass, selected for increased yields and digestibility. Pizza is one of the most digestible orchardgrasses available. Research has revealed in orchardgrass a rapid decline in forage quality following seedhead emergence. Pizza was carefully selected for delayed seedhead emergence which extends the grazing season providing additional high quality forage. The extended grazing season and high quality forage make Pizza an excellent choice for your livestock.

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, greenchop, and silage.

Application

Pizza 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, Pizza is ideally suited for utilization for pasture, hay, greenchop and silage.

Management Tips

Pizza has a moderately low growth habit and can therefore withstand fairly close grazing. It 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. Pizza combines well with alfalfa because maturities coincide well.

Test Data

Results of University studies from Lexington, Kentucky and Ames, Iowa show yields ranging from 3.5 to 4.7 tons per acre, and digestibility (IVDMD) estimates of 62%

Arkport, New York 2000 data (first two cuttings)

Variety	Moisture	Crude Protein	NDF	NSC	NEL
Pizza	83.97%	21.92%	55.33	9.48	0.61
Stampede	81.52%	21.25%	55.93	9.27	0.61

Features

- ▶ Maturity range is very compatible with alfalfa
- ▶ Excellent when seeded straight for hay or grazing
- ▶ Good persistence with proper management
- ▶ Performs well in mono-stand or in mixtures with other perennial grasses
- ▶ Persists on infertile soil, but responds well to nitrogen fertilizer

Benefits

- ▶ Aggressive at high fertility levels, keeping weeds down
- ▶ Greater heat and drought tolerance than bluegrass, ryegrass or timothy
- ▶ Good winter hardiness and rust resistance
- ▶ High nutritive value of highly digestible forage

Seeding Rate

- ▶ Seeding rates for Pizza depend on the region, soil type, etc
- ▶ In monoculture, a rate of 10-12 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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