

Scott's Seedings

By SCOTT RUSHE - SEEDWAY Forage Market Development Manager

Benefits of Meadow Bromegrass

Meadow bromegrass is a long-lived perennial offering promise for non-irrigated or irrigated pasture. Meadow bromegrass can extend the grazing season and increase total forage production. Forage yields in meadow brome are higher than smooth brome, it recovers from grazing much more rapidly, and its fall regrowth is better. Meadow brome can be distinguished from smooth brome by the presence of awns, hairy leaves and stems, and lack of aggressive rhizomes.

As a hay species, meadow brome is less aggressive than smooth brome and retains a better balance in hay fields planted with legumes. Meadow bromegrass is palatable and is a source of early spring forage since it begins spring growth earlier than most grasses. One major advantage over smooth brome is its quick regrowth after cutting, though animals should not be allowed to graze meadow brome until the forage is 8-12 inches high; the animals should be removed when the forage is grazed to a stubble height of 3-4 inches. A typical rest period of 3-4 weeks is required for maximum forage and the health of the stand. In the fall the stand should not be grazed to less than approximately 6 inches before going into winter.

FLEET meadow brome has good winter hardiness and stand development - exhibiting good early development - spreading growth over the entire growing season making it an excellent choice for pasture mixes and incorporating into alfalfa stands. Excellent productivity in early spring and late fall.

MACBETH meadow brome is a good dual-purpose grass hay or pasture with yield, rapid re-growth, forage quality and color retention. Grows earlier in the spring and continues growing longer into the fall. **MACBETH** has narrower leaves and will not take over alfalfa or other pasture mixtures. **MACBETH** is a more bunch-type growth habit, leafier and more palatable than smooth brome with similar forage yield to Regar, Fleet and Paddock, with a slight yield advantage in Montana dry-land trials.

Meadow brome establishes roots very slowly and plants may be severely damaged by grazing too soon. The plants may be severely damaged or pulled out by overgrazing especially in the seedling year due to poorly rooted seedlings. Harvesting for hay during the establishment year will be most beneficial to eliminate grazing damage. Do not graze in the spring until forage is 8 -12 inches high and remove animals from pasture when 3-4 inch stubble height remains. A 3-4 week rest period between grazing is recommended. This plant responds well to rotational grazing systems. To maintain long-lived stands, the grass should be allowed to periodically mature and produce seed for continuation of the stand. Apply fertilizer based on soil tests. **Best wishes for great autumn! I can be reached at 814-280-2451 or email srushe@seedway.com.**



In an Alberta, Canada yield trial meadow brome had impressive pasture-hay yield performance:

Species	Cultivar	Yield (lbs/ac.)
Meadow brome	Regar	10810 (5.4 ton)
	Fleet	10684 (5.3 ton)
	Paddock	10442 (5.2 ton)
Smooth brome	Manchar	8665 (4.3 ton)
Orchardgrass		8709 (4.4 ton)
Meadow foxtail	Garrison	9177 (4.6 ton)

Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, Marshfield, WISCONSIN, USA

2006

Seeding of Meadow brome and fescue

		2009 harvested yield(tons/acre)				2009	2008	2007	2006	4 year
<i>Yield Trial</i>						Total	Total^	Total^	Total^	Total^
Specie	Variety	2-Jun	13-Jul	31-Aug	27-Oct	ton/a	ton/a	ton/a	ton/a	ton/a
Meadow brome	PADDOCK	1.55	1.16	1.13	0.38	4.32	4.09	6.22	2.45	17.08
Meadow brome	REGAR	1.57	1.19	0.93	0.38	4.03	4.19	6.12	2.23	16.57
Meadow brome	FLEET	1.54	1.07	1.08	0.40	4.10	4.06	6.14	2.09	16.39
Meadow fescue	PRADEL	0.76	0.90	1.16	0.33	3.11	3.72	4.96	2.27	14.07
Smooth brome	GO-SB	1.06	0.97	1.02	0.27	3.33	3.31	4.93	1.99	13.56
Meadow fescue	LAURA	0.72	0.85	1.05	0.26	2.71	3.88	4.77	2.07	13.43
Meadow fescue	BARTURA	0.67	0.98	1.01	0.38	3.16	3.44	4.72	2.07	13.39
Mean		1.12	1.02	1.06	0.34	3.54	3.81	5.41	2.17	14.93
LSD 5%						0.61	0.85	0.64	0.39	2.04
CV %						8	12.5	6.4	10.2	7.7

^Variety means are LSMEANS derived from nearest neighbor statistical analysis. Therefore, season or multiple-year totals will not be the arithmetic sum of individual cuts or years, respectively.

Arlington Agricultural Research Station, Arlington, WISCONSIN, USA

2007 Seeding of Cool Season Grasses Yield Trial		2009 harvested yield(tons/acre)						2009 Total^ ton/a	2008 Total^ ton/a	2007 Total^ ton/a	3 year Total^ ton/a	
Specie	Variety	18-May	10-Jun	2-Jul	6-Aug	27-Aug	5-Oct					
Tall fescue	TUSCANY II	1.14	1.84	1.32	1.14	1.44	1.06	7.62	7.90	7.63	23.15	
Orchardgrass	ICON	1.66	0.78	2.03	0.92	1.44	0.55	7.41	8.67	5.64	21.72	
Tall fescue	ARIDO	0.99	1.85	1.26	1.16	1.26	0.99	7.42	7.02	7.18	21.62	
Tall fescue	SAVORY	0.78	1.56	1.47	1.42	1.33	0.95	7.48	7.51	6.57	21.57	
Meadow brome	MACBETH	2.27	0.67	1.70	1.04	1.47	0.33	7.49	7.59	5.80	20.88	
Orchardgrass	COMMAND	1.23	0.99	1.76	0.87	1.28	0.55	6.89	7.49	5.49	19.87	
Orchardgrass	OG0203G	1.31	0.86	1.86	0.69	1.19	0.61	6.19	7.64	5.11	18.93	
Timothy	TALON	1.89	0.92	1.58	0.48	1.04	0.24	6.31	6.89	3.01	16.21	
Timothy	DERBY	2.09	1.03	1.55	0.48	1.02	0.24	6.41	6.59	2.89	15.89	
Timothy	EXPRESS	1.66	1.58	0.83	0.55	0.90	0.17	5.64	5.87	2.63	14.15	
Timothy	SUMMIT	1.76	0.91	1.28	0.45	0.93	0.21	5.64	5.89	2.51	14.04	
Timothy	CREST	1.78	1.63	0.78	0.73	1.02	0.22	6.01	5.61	2.41	14.03	
Orchardgrass	CRISTOSS	<i>Winterkilled</i>							6.84	5.46	.	
Orchardgrass	VAILLANT	<i>Winterkilled</i>							6.92	6.00	.	
Mean		1.55	1.22	1.45	0.83	1.19	0.51	6.71	7.03	4.88	18.51	
LSD 5%									0.62	1.14	0.39	1.95
CV %									4.7	9.7	4.7	6.2

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