Stag forage-type tall fescue

BREEDER

Willamette Valley Plant Breeders, Inc.

DESCRIPTION

Stag Forage-Type Tall Fescue is a very early flowering, erect growing, low endophyte, non-winter dormant (Mediterranean), long-lived perennial bunchgrass. Stag exhibits excellent seedling vigor. Stag is deep rooted, tolerates acidic, high bulk density soils, poor drainage, and is tolerant of drought (Dehydration Avoidance, Beard, 1989).

APPLICATION

Intensive (set stocking); rotational and continual grazing systems; hay and erosion control. Compatible with legumes (Ladino, intermediate white, red clover, and birdsfoot trefoil). Best utilized in areas prone to water-logging or periodic summer drought. Low endophyte, erect growing varieties such as Stag should not be grazed closer than 2-3 inches (50-75 mm) and in particular should not be overgrazed during summer induced dormancy.

PERFORMANCE

During mid-summer/late fall live weight gains/ha. are 8-27% higher than those of improved perennial ryegrass. It has been tested and utilized extensively in North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South American.

FORAGE CHARACTERISTICS

Growth Habit	Estab. Rate days	Anerobic Soil Toler.	pH Range	Min. Rainfall Inch	Seeding Rate lb/a	Dry Matter Yields Tonnes[1]	N. Req.	Re-growth	Primary Utilization	Veg. Reprod Tiller Rate	Endo-phyte	CP%[2]	NDF[2]	ADF[2]	TDN[2]
Perennial Bunch	6-12	Excellent	4.7–9.5	>20	15-20	2-4	High 18-120 /lbs per acre	Good	1. Hay 2. Intense Grazing	Med-Low	No	18-35	50-58	30-36	63-72

[1]Dry matter basis, assuming the crop is grown in an area to which it is adapted using recommended production and harvesting practices.

[2]Forage quality is best defined in terms of animal performance such as daily gain, milk production, wool production, and reproduction. Extensive research has shown biotic and abiotic factors such as stage of maturity at harvest, plant species, climate, and fertilization can adversely impact forage quality. Crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and total digestible nutrients (TDN) can be negatively affected by as much as 60%, 30%, 40%, and 25% respectively among grass and legume species when improperly managed.

XX = Maximum protein and TDN generally when harvested at vegatative, pre-bloom, pre-boot stage under intensive rotational grazing systems.

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