

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

June 8, 2007

In the last several weeks I have taken several phone calls concerning the quality of the hayfields. Each person that has called states the alfalfa stand was greatly reduced over the winter, and wants to know what they can do to increase the yields in the hayfields that have been damaged. Below you will find a list of products and management tips on each product. These problems will help you in the short term.

Lofa Festolium – Ryegrass-Fescue Cross

No till into existing hayfields.

Seed at a rate of 10-25# per acre depending on the current alfalfa stand. Seeding at 10# will allow for dry baling the hay.

Fertilize with 30 Units of Nitrogen.

Lofa will survive for two years.

BMR Sorghum Sudans

Seeding can occur until the beginning of August.

No till into existing hay fields and seed after wheat.

Seed at a depth of 0.50" to 1.50" depending on soils moistures.

Seed at a rate of 40# - 60# Per Acre.

Fertilize with 60 Units of Nitrogen for first cutting

Will be ready to cut in 40-45 days.

Cut Sorghum Sudans at heights of 24"-44" for best quality.

Lay Sorghum Sudans in wide swaths and don't crimp for fastest wilt and highest energy values.

Leave 6" of stubble when cutting. Cutting at less than 6" could cause regrowth problems.

After each cutting fertilize with an additional 40 Units of Nitrogen

Varieties:

Summer Supreme – High yielding and will not head out until October.

Summer Prince – Cold and wet tolerant.

Teff

Excellent forage quality hay when cut before grain maturity.

Produces high yields and quality, very similar to Timothy.

Provides high quality hay in a short growing season.

Tolerates drought to water logged conditions.

Will reach 3-4 feet at maturity.

Seed at 6# - 12# per acre.

Fertilize with 35 units of nitrogen per acre.

Options for August – October

Trical 336 after corn silage

Seed from August until end of October

Cut in boot stage – May 15

Follow Trical 336 with Master Choice Corn or BMR Sorghum Sudans

Italian ryegrass after corn silage

High energy and very aggressive grass

Seed no later than October 1. Needs good establishment to make it through Ohio winters.

Cut in early May and this is capable of producing more than 1 cutting.

Follow up with Masters Choice Corn or Sorghum Sudan

Late summer seeding King Fisher alfalfas and grasses

Seed King Fisher Alfalfa Branch root varieties to prevent winter freeze/thaw kill.

Add fescue and orchard grass to improve the effective fiber of the hay and help with weed control.

Tim Brunswick

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