

Winter Pasture Mix

Our Winter Pasture Mix seed is a blend of wheat, ryegrain, oats and ryegrass seed. Individually each component of the mix would perform suitably for a winter pasture, having a blend enhances the performance of all of the varieties as each has its own peak growing time during the season. This provides a balanced pasture throughout the fall, winter and into the spring.

Establishing A Stand

Planting Time

In the low Arizona deserts, from late September (when the temperature remains around 90 degrees) and through mid-February. Planting during the cold mid-winter months usually result in slow establishment. Late season plantings will have reduced production.

Field Preparation:

Seeding into existing bermudagrass pasture:

- Lightly disc the field before planting.
- Broadcast seed at a rate of 80-120 pounds per acre early in the planting season, going up to as much as 200 pounds per acre for late season planting. A grain drill can also be used to plant the seed.
- Then harrow lightly to bury the seed enabling stand establishment. Be sure not to bury the seed deeper than 1 inch.

Seeding into bare soil:

- Plow, disc and prepare the field as for any small grain crop. The finished seedbed should be smooth, loose and pulverized to promote aeration, water penetration and root growth.
- Seed at a rate of 80-120 pounds per acre, either broadcast and lightly harrowed or drilled with a grain drill as above.

Irrigation: Irrigation needs are about the same as you would for any small grain crop. Depending on winter rain the crop can use about 3 acre feet of water during the growing season. The first irrigation should be deep, wetting the soil profile at least 12 inches deep. The soil surface should be kept wet during the germination period. Growers with bi-weekly or monthly irrigation schedules will probably need to supplement the irrigation and irrigate sooner to prevent the seedlings from dying. Water use throughout the season depends on soil types and weather. Warm weather and sandy soils usually mean the crop will need more frequent irrigations.

Fertilizer Needs: We suggest using about 200 pounds of 11-48-0 per acre as a preplant fertilizer, applied before discing and seeding the field. With the differences in soil types there is no accurate suggestion as to the exact fertilizer needs for any farm. A general suggestion would be to use additional applications of nitrogen fertilizer every month during the growing season. Approximately 200 pounds of Urea fertilizer per acre (divided equally for monthly applications) could be used during the growing season. We recommend that you consult with your local extension agent or fertilizer supplier for more detailed information and suggestions.

Pasture use: Graze only when well established. The pasture should be divided into four sections, grazing each section for about a week. This will give each section about 3 weeks to recover. Also it is important to try to keep the livestock off of the pasture during irrigation.

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