

EPIC ITALIAN Ryegrass Blend



Agronomic Traits

Yield Potential:	Excellent
Early Seedling Vigor:	Good
Growth Habit:	Upright with Large Head
Recovery After Cutting:	Good
Maturity:	Medium
Uniformity:	Excellent
Leaf Type:	Soft
Standability:	Excellent

Planting Rates

(Per Acre)	Irrigated
Planted as grazing/cutting crop:	25-30 lbs.
Planted as a nurse crop:	15-20 lbs.
No-Till into WinterKilled Alfalfa:	25 lbs.

Average Seeds per Pound:	230,000
Bag Weight:	50 lbs.

Adaptation Ratings

Photosynthetic Type:	Cool Season
Soil Temperature:	Cool (45° F)
Water Requirement:	Medium

Crop Use Information

Life Cycle:	Bi-annual
Ease of Establishment:	Good
Shade Tolerance:	Fair
Drought Stress:	Fair
Wet Soil:	Good
Low pH Tolerance:	Moderate
Minimum pH:	6.0
Saline Soils (White Alkali):	Fair
Saline – Sodic Soils (Black Alkali):	Fair
Hay:	Excellent
Silage:	Excellent
Continuous Grazing:	Good
Rotational Grazing:	Good
Palatability:	Excellent

EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND offers excellent quality and yield.

EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND is a unique blend of diploid and tetraploid Italian ryegrass varieties. Combining tetraploid and diploid varieties maximizes the advantages each has to offer. The tetraploid provides high dry matter production, disease resistance to crown rust and improved palatability. The diploid is added for better persistence under grazing and improved traffic tolerance. In regions with moderate climate, **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** will be a biannual forage.

The varieties used in **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** require prolonged periods of cold weather for vernalization. Once vernalized the plant has the ability to produce seed heads which result in the loss of forage quality. Inferior products that imitate **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** vernalize with much shorter periods of cold, producing seed heads soon after planting when spring night time temperatures drop.

HIGH ENERGY RATION COMPONENT IN TMR: **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is ideal as silage or green-chop for high producing dairy cattle. This mixture produces impressive forage yields of exceptional high quality feed (6-8 tons of dry matter per acre). The forage value of **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is higher than that of corn while maintaining similar DM yields. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** creates great economic advantages for producers. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** has a high energy value (NEL values of 0.61-0.70 Mcal/lb) and is an excellent source of digestible fiber (NDFd of 53-69%). In a TMR **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is an ideal forage for lactating dairy cattle. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is a higher forage value alternative to triticale for green-chop. A mixed planting with a premium red clover such as Freedom! is recommended to improve production and the quality of harvested forage.

NUTRIENT RECYCLING: **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is a very effective user of soil nutrients. It is an agronomically sound forage crop for recycling effluent water from confinement animal operations. Cool season grasses are particularly effective in Phosphorus uptake when compared to warm season grasses such as silage corn. In the northern US, spring planted **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is a very high energy forage and may be utilized for grazing or high-moisture cutting system into late fall. Fall planted **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** provides nutrient recycling in late fall/early winter and also earlier in the spring compared to warm season forages. It can then be rotated to hybrid sorghum-sudan in early summer to provide year around nutrient uptake. For this application **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** should be sown at 30-35 lbs/acre.

NURSE/COVER CROP: At low planting rates (3 lbs/acre) **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** is ideal as a nurse or cover crop for perennial forage crops such as alfalfa. It provides higher yields and better quality forage compared to oats. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** can be no-tilled (25 lbs/acre) into alfalfa stands that are winter damaged or killed to provide emergency forage for the season. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** will rapidly establish and provide forage in as little as 6 weeks.

WINTER GRAZING: In areas where small grains are used for winter grazing, mixtures with highly palatable **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** will improve the yield and quality of these fields. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** shows quick regrowth after grazing and can be planted with cereals such as triticale to extend the grazing season. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** should be mixed at 10-25% by weight with triticale.

EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND is suited for all planting zones. In the northern United States it can be used as a spring-planted annual crop. In the transition zone it performs as a biannual forage crop. In the southern United States it is suited as an annual crop for winter production in mono-stand or in mixtures with winter cereals. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** performs well in the western United States with supplemental irrigation.

EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND may be planted in the fall or spring. Prior to planting, apply 100 lbs of a 20:20:20 fertilizer. For fall planting, plant immediately after harvest to improve establishment and graze or cut prior to winter in order to thicken the stand and promote winter survival. For spring planting, plant early in the spring. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** may be planted via full-cultivation, no-till drill or broadcast seeding. When planting as a nurse crop to a perennial or interplanting into an existing alfalfa stand, broadcast or drill in a manner to stagger the placement of the Italian seed with the other crop. Plant no deeper than ¼ inch. For highest forage quality, maintain in a vegetative state. For grazing systems, graze at 6-8 inches down to 3-4 inches and for cutting systems, harvest at 12-18 inches. **EPIC ITALIAN RYEGRASS BLEND** responds well to nitrogen fertilization.