

Forage Factsheet – Meadow Bomegrass

Species Name: Meadow Bromegrass- *Bromus biebersteinii*

Origin: Turkey and southeastern Europe.

Longevity: 10-20 years.

Uses: Pasture, hay, stockpiling.

Optimal time of use: Graze meadow bromegrass in the four leaf stage or when growth is 8 to 12 inches (203 -305 mm) tall. Remove livestock from pasture when stubble is 3 to 4 inches (76-100 mm) tall. Previously hayed or grazed meadow bromegrass fields, or meadow bromegrass that has not been used during the growing season can be stockpiled for fall or winter grazing.

Recovery after use: Meadow bromegrass requires 30-60 days rest after grazing or cutting. Six inches (150 mm) of residue is required prior to the first killing frost to ensure winter hardiness. Meadow bromegrass's ability to regrow quickly with less moisture and nutrients than smooth bromegrass after use is one of its most desirable characteristics.

Yield: Meadow bromegrass yields approximately 3020 lbs/acre (3431 kg/ha) in the Brown soil zone, 4670 lbs/acre (5306 kg/ha) in the Dark Brown soil zone, and 4045 lbs/acre (4596 kg/ha) in the Black and Grey soil zones. Recommended initial stocking rates for new fields are 0.6 AUM/acre (1.5 AUM/ha) in the Brown soil zone, and 0.9 AUM/acre (2.25 AUM/ha) in the Dark Brown soil zone and 1.3 AUM/acre (3.25 AUM/ha) in the Black and Grey soil zones for one rotation.

Palatability/Nutritional Value: Meadow bromegrass has an average digestibility of 70-75% and crude protein level of 15-20% prior to flowering. After seed set meadow bromegrass has an average digestibility of 64% and 12% crude protein. Grazing livestock gain weight similarly on smooth bromegrass and meadow bromegrass until August, when weight gains on meadow bromegrass become superior. Feed value of stockpiled meadow brome is maintained in the fall and winter.

Competitiveness: Meadow bromegrass is moderately competitive. When seeded in a mix with alfalfa, alfalfa persists much longer than when seeded with crested wheatgrass or smooth bromegrass.

Winter Hardiness: Meadow bromegrass has good winter hardiness. Approximately 6 inches of carryover is required to enhance winter hardiness.

Drought Tolerance: Meadow bromegrass has good drought tolerance.

Erosion Control: Meadow bromegrass has fair erosion control capability.

Ease of Establishment: Meadow bromegrass seedlings are vigorous and establish easily.

Suggested Mixtures: When grown with alfalfa for pasture, meadow bromegrass reduces bloat risk.

Salinity Tolerance: Meadow bromegrass has moderate tolerance of salinity.

Flooding Tolerance: Meadow bromegrass may withstand one to two weeks of spring flooding.

Soil Texture: Meadow bromegrass produces well on moist but well drained sandy, loamy and clay soils.

Acidity Tolerance: Meadow bromegrass tolerates soil pH as low as 5.7.

Management considerations: Seed meadow bromegrass with a legume to increase forage yield and quality. If a legume is not included in the stand, fertilize meadow bromegrass according to soil test results.