

McKinley

Annual Ryegrass

A strong winter-hardy variety with high yield and quality, McKinley came in close to the top of the charts for two years in a row in Penn State trials.

Expected growth – In an ideally timed seeding If properly seeded, one can expect to see 2-4” of top growth before a hard killing frost. Snow cover in northern areas will help protect annual ryegrass from winterkill if seeded too early or under a “fast” fall.

Fall Management

Excessive fall growth (greater than 10 inches) should be harvested, grazed or clipped to 4”

Grazing Dates

When plants reach 6 to 10”. Under good growing conditions, the first grazing will be ready in approximately six weeks for late summer seedings. During the spring a rotation of 10 to 14 days is typical.

Silage Harvest Dates

Nov., mid-April, early May, and late May if not replanting quickly into alternative crop. Silage should be made when crop is about 15 to 20 inches or if coming into boot stage. Protein begins to drop after heading but not as severely as a small grain.

Crop Rotation

Ryegrass should be either moldboard plowed or sprayed with a strong rate of glyphosate (Roundup) per acre to kill the plant. If not controlled, it may compete with the next crop. Annual and Italian Ryegrass can become a serious weed in small grains and is not recommended where small grains are grown for grain harvest. Paraquat (Gramoxone), chiseling or heavy discing will NOT control ryegrass.

At A Glance:

- ◇ High winter hardiness with high yields.
- ◇ High sugar, high fiber digestibility content
- ◇ Exceptional root growth

Establishment:

For Spring Harvest Only.

Seed at barley to early wheat dates for best spring yields.

For fall and spring harvest, seed at 8-10 weeks prior to typical 1st frost. (Similar to spring oat fall forage dates.)

Can also be seeded in early spring but will get heady in the summer. Italian Ryegrass is usually a lot better choice for spring planting.

For erosion control can be seeded almost any date for a quick cover to complement with conservative practices.

Seeding Rate: 30-45lbs/Acre 5 to 30lbs if seeded with a small grain

Seeding Depth: 1/4-1/2”

Nitrogen Fertilization

50lbs at planting (can use manure)

50lbs March during green up

50lbs after each machine harvest or 2 grazing cycles.



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Forage Tech Sheet