

Bayou Kale

With up to 25% protein in its leaves, Bayou Kale is an excellent grazing and deer plot forage. Rich in vitamins A, C, and the B group, Bayou Kale, has a high feeding value and is equivalent to early spring grass in quality with high crude protein between 16%-18%. Bayou Kale has a shallow root system, but the plant can reach up to 2.5 feet tall!

Plant Bayou Kale in sandy loam to light clay soils. Intolerant of waterlogged conditions, Bayou Kale prefers mild, moist climates with deep, rich, mellow soils. Palatability goes down with warmer weather, but it can survive in temperatures down to 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

Planting

Due to Bayou Kale's rapid growth rate, good dry matter production can occur within 110-150 days under ideal conditions. Plant Bayou Kale as early as possible into firm, moist soils to increase dry matter yields.

Grazing

At an average consumption rate of 50lbs per cow per day, 2 acres of Bayou kale will feed 100 cows for one month. Chopping, hand-feeding, or limiting grazing to a few hours a day will help avoid trampling damage. If planted in the spring and grazed in the late summer (with time for regrowth), it is possible to produce a good crop for late winter or early spring grazing. Grazing can occur for an entire growing season provided enough plant remains after a rotational graze to allow for recovery.

At A Glance:

Key Characteristics:

- ◇ Good leaf yield
- ◇ Ideal for grazing
- ◇ High-energy feed
- ◇ High sugar and dry matter content

Best Uses:

Grazing

Establishment:

Planting Dates: Early Spring

Seeding Rate: 5-8 lbs/Acre

Seeding Depth: 1/4"-1/2"