



Texas A&M Grass Images, Bioinformatics Working Group; Photo from Forages 5th Ed. CD Companion

HYBRID BERMUDAGRASS

DESCRIPTION - The leaves, stems, and rhizomes are larger diameter and longer than common bermudagrass. Seed heads rarely produce viable seed. They are more drought tolerant and more productive than common bermudagrass. Soils, management, and forage use are important in selecting variety.

CULTIVARS - See table on back of this sheet for a comparison of bermudagrass hybrids.

ADAPTATION - Best adapted to well and moderately well drained soils.

PLANTING DATES - Planted by sprigs 1/15-6/1 or planted by tops 5/30-6/15.

PLANTING RATE - If planted with a sprigging machine the planting rate is 12 Bu. sprigs per acre, if planted by broadcasting 24 Bu. sprigs per acre is the rate. Five to seven square bales of fresh tops are needed per acre to establish by planting tops.

PLANTING DEPTH - 1 to 3 inches deep.

SEEDBED PREPARATION - Disk 6 - 8 inches deep, well in advance of planting, and allow to firm from rainfall or by rolling.

LIME AND FERTILIZER - Bermudagrass pH range is 5.5 - 8.0. Fertilizer rate will be determined by current soil test. Nitrogen (N) application will vary depending upon site conditions and intensity of management. For pasture, a moderate to high level of

production can be attained with 60 Lb/Ac N application in the spring and 60 Lb/Ac N application after each grazing cycle, for hay 100 Lb/Ac in the spring and 100 Lb/Ac after each cutting. Other nutrients should be added, as needed, according to a current soil test. If, lime phosphorus, potassium, or other nutrients are needed before planting, incorporate them during seedbed preparation.

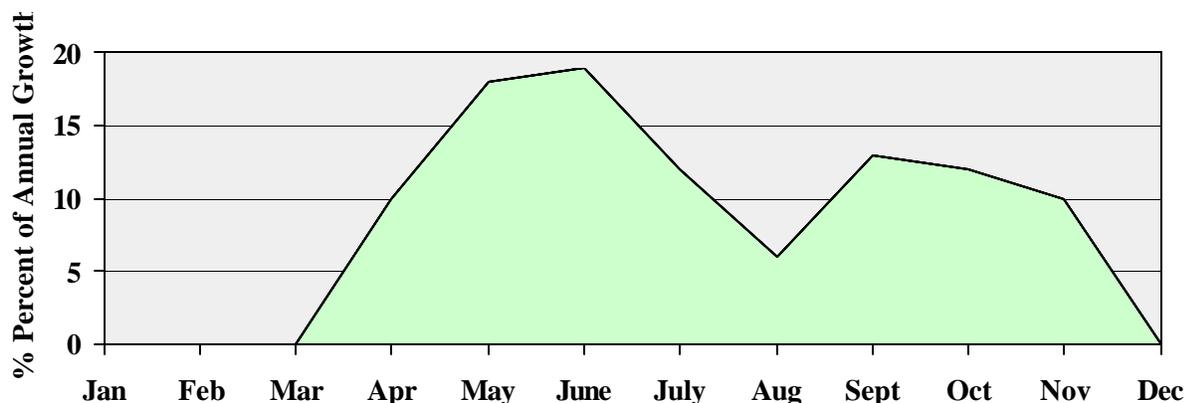
PLANTING METHODS - Hybrid bermudagrass sprigs and tops can be planted with a sprigging machine or they can be broadcast using a manure spreader and then disking to cover. For more information on planting tops see NRCS Job Sheet entitled, Planting Bermudagrass Hybrids Using Tops. The soil should be firmed with a cultipacker, or roller during or immediately after planting. If sprigging, soil should be rolled before planting to firm seedbed.

MANAGEMENT - Protect from grazing until plants are well rooted, and not easily pulled up by livestock. Control weeds to reduce competition. Follow all label directions when using herbicides. When grazing to control weeds, stock the area heavily for short periods; do not graze shorter than 6 inches during the establishment year. After establishment, hybrid bermudagrass should not be grazed until it is at least 6 inches tall, and it can be grazed to 3.0 inches in a rotational system. Hay may be cut to a 3-inch height. Grazing should be on approximately an 18 - 28 day schedule. Best quality hay can be cut at about 4-week intervals.

Comparison of Released Bermudagrass Hybrids

Alicia*	Adaptation similar to coastal, but less winter hardy and recovers slower than coastal after severe winter. Yield is usually less than coastal. Good for erosion control, provides quicker cover than coastal, but forage is usually lower in quality than coastal. Somewhat susceptible to rust.
Brazos	Production is similar or higher than coastal on adapted soils. Cold tolerance similar to coastal. Usually higher digestibility than coastal.
Coastal	Best adapted to moderately to well drained sandy to loamy soils, but will persist on clayey soils. Moderate cold tolerance.
Coastcross -1 and Tifton 68	Soil adaptation same as coastal, but both lack cold tolerance, which limits their use to coastal areas of Texas. Both have good disease resistance and produce higher quality forage than coastal. Coastcross primarily spreads by above ground stolons, only occasionally produces rhizomes. Tifton 68 only produces stolons.
Grazer	Adaptation similar to coastal, but less winter hardy. Short growth habit results in lower total production than coastal, but quality is better than coastal. Best used as pasture not hay.
Jiggs*	Adapted to a wide range of soils, faster establishment and higher production potential than coastal on most soils, especially clayey soils. Forage quality similar to coastal. Cold tolerance may be less than coastal. Jiggs is susceptible to rust.
Tifton 44	Soil adaptation and total production similar to coastal, better cold tolerance, earlier spring and later fall growth than coastal.
Tifton 78	Soil adaptation similar to coastal, much less cold tolerant than coastal. It establishes and spreads faster than coastal. Spring growth starts earlier than coastal. Immune to rust.
Tifton 85*	Soil adaptation similar to coastal, but less cold tolerant. Higher production potential, and better forage quality than coastal. Performs better than coastal on sandy soils. Earlier spring growth and later fall growth than coastal
*Often planted by tops	Mature tops are not usually available until the end of May. They must be planted into moist soils and packed immediately after planting.

Growth Curve For Hybrid Bermudagrass



Actual growth is dependent upon local climate and seasonal variations in temperature and rainfall. Growth curve assumes adequate fertility based on soil test recommendation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.