



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

Seeded Bermudagrass

DESCRIPTION - Bermudagrass is an introduced warm season perennial grass. It spreads by creeping stolons and rhizomes, as well as seed. Bermudagrass is moderately salt tolerant, and can tolerate some flooding, though little growth will occur when soils are saturated. It requires full sun for optimum growth. Giant bermudagrass resembles coastal in growth habit, but stands of Giant tend to decline to mostly common bermudagrass after a few years.

VARIETIES - See table for comparison of seeded bermudagrasses.

ADAPTATION - Best adapted to well and moderately well drained soils. Not recommended on deep sands, or areas flooded for long duration. Seeded is less drought tolerant than hybrid bermudagrass.

PLANTING DATES -2/15-6/1; 8/15-9/30

LIME AND FERTILIZER - Bermudagrass pH range is 5.5 - 8.0. Nitrogen (N) application will vary depending upon site conditions and intensity of management. For pasture, a moderate level of production can be attained with a 60 Lb/Ac N application in the spring and a 40 Lb/Ac N application after each grazing cycle, for hay, 70 Lb/Ac N in the spring and 70 Lb/Ac N 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 RATE - Common hulled 2.3 pounds PLS per acre; all others 3.0 pounds PLS per acre.

PLANTING DEPTH - 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep.

SEEDBED PREPARATION - Disk 3 - 6 inches deep, and allow to firm from rainfall or by rolling.

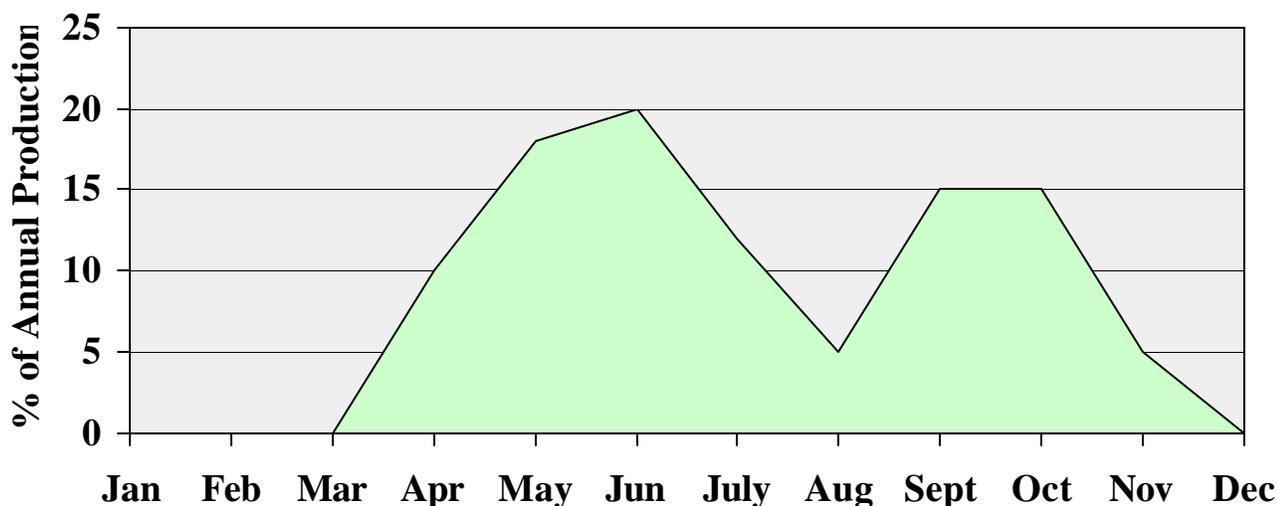
PLANTING METHODS - The seed may be drilled or broadcast on a prepared seedbed. The soil should be firmed by press wheels, a cultipacker, or roller during or immediately after planting. Some producers mix bermudagrass seed with the spring fertilizer application, and apply the seed/fertilizer mixture to existing stands to improve the stand and fill in bare areas.

MANAGEMENT - Protect from grazing until plants are well rooted, and not easily pulled up by livestock. Control weeds to reduce competition. Do not apply herbicides until most plants reach the 4-leaf stage. Follow all label directions when using herbicides. When grazing to control weeds, stock the area heavily for short periods; do not graze shorter than 4 inches during the establishment year. After establishment, bermudagrass should not be grazed until it is 4 inches tall, and it can be grazed to 2.5 - 4.0 inches in a rotational system. Hay may be cut to a 2.5 - 4.0 inch height. Grazing should be on approximately an 18 - 28 day schedule. First hay cutting should be when the grass is 12 - 15 inches in height, 4 - 5 week intervals or 12 - 15 inches thereafter.

Comparison of Seeded Bermudagrasses

Common; hulled or unhulled	Best adapted to well and moderately well drained soils, optimum pH 5.5 - 8.0. Not recommended on deep or very deep sands, or areas flooded for long duration. Less drought tolerant than hybrid bermudagrass.
Cheyenne	Released in 1989 for turf and reclamation, adapted to moderate to well drained soils in the SE and Gulf Coast. Has produced lower yields than other seeded varieties in variety trials at Overton, TX.
Giant	Adaptation similar to common, wider leaves, slightly higher productivity than common. Stands have tended to thin out over time.
Texas Tough	Mixture of common hulled, common unhulled, and giant bermudagrass. Adaptation same as common. Most productive seeded variety in 3 year trial at Overton, TX.
Ranchero Frio	Mixture of Cheyenne and giant. Adaptation same as common. Produced less than Texas Tough and Tierra Verde in variety trials at Overton, TX.
Tierra Verde	Similar mixture to Texas Tough. Adaptation same as common. Production slightly less than Texas Tough in Overton variety trials.
Guyman	Soil adaptation similar to common. Cold tolerance similar to Tifton 44.

Growth Curve for Seeded 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.

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