



ALBERT LEA SEED

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Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.)

Description

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) is a short- to medium height, cool-season, long-lived, highly palatable, perennial grass that has smooth, soft, green to dark green leaves with boat-shaped tips. It grows best during cool, moist weather on well-drained, fertile soils and spreads via rhizomes to form a dense sod. It is best adapted to areas where the average daily temperature during July does not exceed 75 F. Warm summer temperatures are the most limiting environmental factor to Kentucky bluegrass production.

Overview

Uses: Pasture—Forage—Non-Agricultural Use

Strengths: Forms dense sod.
Tolerates frequent grazing and foot traffic.
Spreads by rhizomes.

Weaknesses: Produces nearly 70% of its annual forage production by early June.
Slow to establish.

Plant Information

Winterhardiness:	Excellent
Drought-Tolerance:	Poor
Wet soil tolerance:	Moderate
Average Nitrogen Fixation:	NA
Forage Yield Range:	1 to 2 Tons / Acre DM
Relative Forage Quality:	Acceptable during early growth

Seed and Seeding Info

Seeds per lb:	1,800,000 to 2,200,000
Seeding Rate Alone:	25 to 30 lb / A
Seeding Rate in Mixtures:	3 to 10 lb / A
Range of Seeding Dates:	Early spring or early fall
Methods of seeding:	Band seeded and cultipacked – Drilled – Broadcast and drag
Best seeding depth:	¼ in
Best Soil types:	Most types
pH tolerances:	6.0 to 7.0

Cultural and Harvest Information

As a grazing crop?

Proper management during the early growing season is essential to maximize Kentucky bluegrass's production potential. Kentucky bluegrass pastures are often under grazed in the spring, which results in an accumulation of mature, low-quality forage. Use high stocking densities early in the growing season when Kentucky bluegrass is most productive or harvest excess growth as hay or silage. Reduce the stocking density later in the grazing season as grass growth slows. Maintain a stubble height of 2 to 4 inches in spring. Do not overgraze in drought years or during midsummer. Mixing Kentucky bluegrass with white clover is a popular choice for long term pasturage, grazing, and for low density continuous stocking of livestock.

As a haying crop?

Kentucky bluegrass is not generally used in hay mixes because it is shorter in stature than many other cool season grasses. Its poor re-growth during the warm summer months also make it less than ideal for hay.

Albert Lea Seed House Product Information Guide

The information presented here is based on the best agronomic information we could cull from University Publications and other sources (usually identified). The cultural and agronomic information is relevant only to farming in the upper mid-west. This information is not infallible and is not a substitute for experience and/or education. We **do not guarantee** farming results based on this information.