

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

SEED PRODUCTION

Description & Adaptation

Perennial ryegrass is a short-lived perennial grass with a shallow fibrous root system. It is a low-growing, bunch-type grass with short leafless stems. Perennial ryegrass is readily used in turf applications around the world. Managed as a biennial crop, it is seeded one year and harvested the next, resulting in one year of seed production. It is typically under-seeded with wheat or canola.

Field Selection

Perennial ryegrass responds well to moisture and nitrogen. It is adapted to different soil types, ranging from light-textured sandy soils to heavy clay soils. The field must be free of residual herbicides such as Edge™, Treflan™ and others. It is important to review the herbicide history of the field before planting. Clean fields are important to minimize weeds at harvest and earn top prices. A field that has had glyphosate applications and is clean of quackgrass is essential.

Weed and Disease Control

Wild oats, cleavers and quackgrass are problem weeds. Wild oats, cleavers and other broadleaf weeds can be controlled with herbicides; however, there is no in crop control for quackgrass.

Production Benefits

- Early harvest splits up fall workload
- Plant growth regulators can be used to improve yield and standability.
- Increases organic matter
- Guaranteed minimum contract pricing with opportunity to capture market upside
- Excellent profitability track record



Overview

Seeding Rate	8-10 lbs/acre
Seeding Depth	Max ½ inch
Row Spacing	7 - 15 inches
Seed Yield	500 - 1,500 lbs/acre
Seed Production Life	1 year
Companion Crop	Wheat, oats, canola
Soil pH	5.5 – 8.0
Fertility	High nitrogen user
Swath Timing	Late July to early August
Harvest Timing	5-7 days after swathing
Seed Moisture	Dry is 12%

<https://brettyoung.ca/seed-production/perennial-ryegrass>
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