

Teff Grass



A New Warm Season Annual Grass Hay with... “Quality and Palatability rivaling Timothy”

The advantage of Teff is its ability to produce high quality hay in a relatively short growing season. Teff can be cultivated on a wide range of soils and environments, tolerating drought to water logged conditions.

Planting & Growing Requirements

Planting... Teff can not tolerate frost, it is recommended to delay planting until soil temperatures reach 65° F.

Teff Grass is a very small seeded annual grass. Planting rate is 6-10 lbs coated seed per acre. Teff requires a firm seed bed, in which good seed to soil contact is promoted. Planting depth should be “1/8 to 1/4” deep, but should not exceed 1/4 inch. Adequate soil moisture or overhead irrigation is ideal for the crops fast germination, under warm conditions. Weed control prior to stand establishment is recommended. Broadcast Planting using a Brillion grass seeder and cultipacker combination, or a spinner type grass seeder is optimal.

Applications of 50-60 lbs of available N at planting is recommended. Excessive fertilization should be avoided to prevent lodging. Harvesting cut before maturity for optimal quality feed. Cutting internal is generally 45-55 days first cut, 30 days subsequent cuts, but may vary by location. Rotary cutters are preferred with a stubble height of 3-4 inches for optimal re-growth.

Crop Origin and Plant Characteristics

Teff is a warm season C4 annual grass that originated in Africa, where it was utilized mainly as a grain crop. An evaluation of the crop in the U.S. has identified it as an excellent forage hay when cut before grain maturity. Teff was recently identified from a large collection of plant introductions as one of the better forage producing lines of Teff. “” produces High Yields and Quality, rivaling many other forage grass hay such as Timothy.

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Teff is a fine stemmed annual grass similar in appearance to bunch grasses. It has large crowns and numerous tillers with a shallow massive fibrous root system. Plant height at maturity can range from 3-4 feet depending on the environment.



Special points of interest:

- Teff is a warm season annual grass that requires a frost free growing season
- Teff a Great interim hay crop between alfalfa stands!!!
- Profitable rotation crop for Alfalfa Growers for premium horse hay Market .
- High Quality hay for horse owners with excellent palatability and animal acceptance .
- Suitable for double cropping
- Good hay or pasture crop when late season plantings are required due to a crop failure
- Low input annual forage grass
- Very few disease and pest problems have been observed.
- Studies indicate that Teff can be grown in most locations, without insecticides or fungicides.

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