



JESUP FORAGE TALL FESCUE

JESUP TALL FESCUE was released in 1995 by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station as a replacement for Kentucky 31. Jesup is ideal for pastures and hay throughout the entire US fescue growing region. In trials at Tifton and Eatonton GA, Jesup showed a superior ability to maintain healthy stands after harsh summer conditions. And steer gains were the highest ever recorded for a tall fescue in Georgia (3-year average of 2.2 pounds per day). Jesup Tall Fescue was developed by Dr. Joe Bouton at the University of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station in Athens GA. Jesup Tall Fescue is a protected variety that can only be sold as a class of certified seed and only by individuals licensed by the Georgia Seed Development Commission (GSDC) under guidelines established in conjunction with the University of Georgia Research Foundation (UGARF).

Species: Festuca arundinacea

Variety: Jesup tall fescue

Description: Jesup tall fescue is a widely adapted forage tall fescue that provides excellent permanent pasture for all types of livestock. Jesup is best used for grazing, but when cut prior to head emergence, Jesup will also provide a high quality hay. Jesup can also be used for cut and carry forage production. Jesup will produce large quantities of highly palatable grass with a crude protein level of 15% - 16%, and Total Digestible Nutrients of 60 - 62% range. Jesup is best adapted to clay or clay loam soils. It is tolerant to acid soils and poor drainage, but is not well suited to sandy soils. When fed to cattle, average daily gains of 1 kg/day are possible. Because Jesup is widely adapted, and can survive light grazing with little management, it is also well suited to reclamation and erosion control purposes

Sowing rate: 25 kg per Hectare

Sowing time: Sow when temperatures are greater than 15 C, or when soil temperatures are at least 10 C. If seeding

in the autumn, insure that seed is planted at least 10 weeks before the first frosts are expected.

Farming management:

Seed at a depth of 0.5 - 1.0 cm into a moist, well prepared seedbed. Do not seed deeper than 1.5 cm. Roll after seeding. The best soil pH is 6.0 - 6.5. Apply 50 kg N per Ha at seeding, followed by another 40 kg N per ha after each cutting. If the soil is low in P, apply 25 kg P per ha at seeding. If the soil is low in K, apply 40kg K per ha at seeding.

Harvest management:

A first cutting or grazing can be made when the grass reaches 20 - 30 cm high and before the seed head emerges. Leave 10 - 15 cm of crop height after cutting or grazing. It is very important to manage the grazing animals to insure that they do not graze the grass to ground level, as this will damage the growing point of the plant. In the first year it is extremely important not to graze or cut the crop below 15 cm. Allow regrowth to reach a height of 25 cm before cutting or grazing again. During heat or drought stress, take less cuts or graze less cattle per ha.

If being used for hay production, cut the crop before the seed head emerges to maximize forage quality. Under wet conditions, care should be taken with grazing to insure that animals feet do not damage the growing center of the plant.