



Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass for Green Chop

Seedbed Preparation

A firm, well-prepared seedbed is needed for good seed-soil contact.

Seeding Dates

Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass germinates well (in 6 to 10 days) when daytime temperatures range from 50° to 87° F (10 to 31° C). Stagger planting dates 10 days to 2 weeks to spread out production for a realistic feeding and cutting schedule. It takes at least four weeks after planting before usable forage is available.

Planting

Plant Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass 20 – 25 lbs/acre (20 to 25 kg/ha) drilled, 30 to 35 lbs (30 to 35 kg/ha) broadcast. Seeding depth should be between 0.25 and 0.5 inch (0.5 to 1.25 cm), never more.

Fertilization

Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass responds to high soil nutrient levels. Nitrogen is by far the most important nutrient for Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass production, but many nutrients are essential for maximum forage production. Apply 30 pounds N/ acre (30 kg N/ha) at planting followed by another 50 pounds N/acre (50 kg N/ha) every four to six weeks. Apply 25 lbs of phosphate per acre (25 kg P/ha) at planting if the soil tests very low in P. Apply approximately 50 pounds of potash per acre (50 kg K/ha) if the soil tests low in K. Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass tolerates a soil pH range of 5.6 to 8.4. Below pH 5.0, aluminum toxicity may be a problem. Higher pH can cause chlorosis due to iron and manganese deficiencies.

Green Chop

Passerel Plus Annual Ryegrass makes excellent green chop when it can be delivered quickly to livestock, use of a silage harvester aids in this. A 1st cutting may be made when forage height reaches 10 inches (25 cm). For maximum yields, delay cutting until boot stage or early heading to encourage regrowth of new vegetative tillers. At higher temperatures the boot stage should be reached in 5 to 7 weeks. You can tell when shoots reach the boot stage due to the swelling in the sheath of the flag leaf (the smallest and terminal leaf on the stem). Leave at least 3 inches (7.5 cm) of stubble.

It will take 3 to 4 weeks or more before the crop is ready for a 2nd cutting. Allow regrowth to reach a height of 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 cm) before cutting. Four to six harvests per season are common.