



The Bermudagrass Specialists

Tierra Verde
Pasture Bermudagrass

3458 E 33rd Place
Yuma, AZ 85365 U.S.A.

TEL 928•783•2050
888•905•3434
FAX 928•783•8401

Roll Plant
Roll, AZ 85347 U.S.A.

TEL 928•785•9605
FAX 928•785•9608

El Centro Plant
El Centro, CA 92244 U.S.A.

TEL 760•352•2082
FAX 760•352•9899

<http://www.seedswest.com>

Description

TIERRA VERDE brands pasture bermudagrass (Cynodon Dactylon species) is highly productive, economical alternative to giant bermudagrass seed. It is packaged in 25 pound net weight (11.34kg) branded bags. This is a specially formulated mixture of giant and common bermudagrass seed, consisting of both hulled and unhulled seed for better stand establishment. Planting TIERRA VERDE is better than planting pure stands of giant bermudagrass because the prostrate or trailing growth habit of the common bermudagrass in the mix helps to form a tighter sod at the soil surface preventing sunlight from reaching weed seeds and serving to choke out what few weeds do start to grow.

Qualities & Adaptation

TIERRA VERDE is a warm season perennial grass that is extremely heat tolerant and spreads rapidly. It is alkali and drought tolerant once established. TIERRA VERDE produces high yields of fine stemmed, leafy nutritious forage, hay or green chop. Your pasture will be ready to graze or cut 45 to 50 days after seeding with proper temperature, moisture and management. High palatability adds to feed value and weight gains for beef cattle. Top quality forage is also provided for dairy cattle, horses, sheep and goats. It is widely adapted to the southern United States as well as most temperate semi-tropical and tropical regions of the world. Animal stocking rates up to 2500 pounds per acre (2840kg) are recommended to keep the grazing pressure high and obtain maximum forage quality.

Management

Seed should be planted in the spring or summer after all danger of frost is past. When nighttime temperatures remain above 65° (17°C), the soil temperatures should be warm enough for planting. Late summer or early fall plantings will also do well if the new plants have 60 days of good growth before the first frost. Ladino or New Zealand perennial white clovers can be seeded with TIERRA VERDE to improve pasture quality and feed value. This practice is highly recommended by U.S. university personnel. Pasture growth will slow down as temperatures cool off in the fall. It will go dormant after the first frost. For winter forage, many annual cool season crops can be grown in the dormant TIERRA VERDE sod. A winter pasture blend consisting of cool season grains and ryegrasses is often planted in October or November when the bermudagrass goes dormant and will remain productive until the bermuda regrows the following spring. Berseem clover is also considered an excellent addition for winter forage. This high feed value annual clover grows all through the winter months and greatly increases weight gains for your cattle. The most recommended method of planting winter forage seed into dormant TIERRA VERDE is to drill the forage seed directly into the bermudagrass stubble with no cultivation.

Regardless of which method you choose for overseeding into the bermudagrass, please be aware any land preparation for planting winter forage seed should be limited to as little as possible to reduce damage to the dormant bermudagrass. See your local dealer for additional information.

Planting and Growing Guidelines

CAUTION: *Problems with seed germination and stand establishment may occur if the previous crop grown in the field was ryegrass. According to University research personnel, ryegrass thatch and stubble contains a natural growth inhibitor which slows and/or prevents the germination of seeds of other species. For optimum stand establishment it is necessary to remove as much of this material as possible and compost or decompose the balance. Spraying the ryegrass with sulfuric acid or applying a high Nitrogen fertilizer and disking the dead grass under will usually take care of this problem. Afterwards, the grower can continue the normal land preparation and planting procedures. Please note: This is only necessary in the first year of bermudagrass planting following ryegrass. In the following years, since bermudagrass is established and regrows from stolons and rhizomes (underground stems) rather than seed the ryegrass stubble can be left in the field and the dormant bermudagrass will regrow through it. Land Preparation: Work 50 pounds of actual Nitrogen (N) and 20 pounds of potash (P20 5) per acre in the soil before planting (55kg of each hectare) Prepare a moist firm seedbed with at least 3 to 6 inches of well worked soil on top. A pre-irrigation may help reduce weed problems by allowing weed seeds to sprout which may be disked under before planting your seed.*

Planting: Using a rotary or cyclone-type seeder, broadcast 12 to 15 pounds of TIERRA VERDE seed per acre (13-17 kilograms per hectare). Do not plant more than ¼ inch (.6cm) deep. A surface planting is recommended. However, raking lightly or running a light harrow over the field after broadcasting the seed may help reduce seed losses to birds and wind. Running a cultipacker over the field after seeding will help the new planting by producing shallow furrows or grooves to retain moisture for the seedlings.

Irrigation: During the first 4 weeks after planting the soil surface should never fully dry out. After the first month, gradually reduce the frequency of watering while increasing the amount of water applied each time. Once the stand is established infrequent, but deep waterings will produce a healthier, more productive pasture. This practice is recommended to help establish a deep root system (roots 5 to 6 feet long are reported in fields managed this way.) that will keep the field productive even during periods of prolonged heat or drought. A deep root system will prolong the overall productivity of your TIERRA VERDE pasture. Special advice for salty or alkaline soils – Plant dry and irrigated immediately after to reduce the soil salinity around the emerging seedlings. Lightly irrigate every 2 to 4 days, depending on soil drainage and the prevailing temperature and wind conditions.

Fertilization: A well-watered and managed field of TIERRA VERDE can use up to 400 pounds of actual Nitrogen per acre during the season for top yields. For best results, fertilizer is applied every 3 to 4 weeks during the growing season. For specific fertilizer recommendations for your area, please check with your local agricultural chemical dealer.

Maintenance: TIERRA VERDE pastures are highly productive when grown with proper maintenance. Rotation grazing produces the best results. Every 3 to 4 weeks, you should move your livestock, apply fertilizer if needed and irrigate deeply. Mowing and ungrazed grass and scattering manure will greatly improve the quality of the forage. Young, leafy bermudagrass has the highest feed value so return the animals to the pasture when the new growth is 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10cm) tall. A well-maintained TIERRA VERDE pasture can remain productive for many years. On heavier soils with high animal stocking rates, soil compaction may occur. This can be relieved with spring cultivations every 3 to 5 years with the incorporation of a high phosphate fertilizer to promote new root development. A light reseedling of bare areas can be done afterwards. Then irrigate well and keep the animals off the field for 3 to 4 weeks to allow sufficient time for growth.

