

Warrior II

Orchardgrass

Warrior II is an intermediate-flowering, soft-leaved, upright-growing orchardgrass with exceptional forage yield. With deep-seated crowns and tolerance to intensive grazing pressure, Warrior II is highly recommended as a component in legumes mixtures containing alfalfa, red clover, and birdsfoot trefoil. Standout features include active winter growth, resistance to foliar disease, drought resistance, and heat/humidity tolerance.

Usage:

Warrior II is recommended for intensive rotational grazing, pasture, hay, green chop and silage, but requires better management than tall fescue for higher yields and forage quality. Warrior II will tolerate modest continuous grazing pressure without weakening stands.

Seeding and Establishment:

Orchardgrass has a tendency towards intermediate to slow tillering making the spring and fall (when soil temperatures are above 60°F or higher) optimal planting times for Warrior II. Warrior II should be drill seeded at a rate of 15-20 lbs/ac when utilized as a solo variety. If mixing and seeding with legumes, a 3-5 lbs Warrior II Orchardgrass with 12-15 lbs alfalfa, red clover, white clover, or birdsfoot trefoil per acre is suggested. Sow Warrior II at a depth of 1/4" to 1/2" in soils that are well drained with good fertility for optimal forage production. Soil pH is best in a range of 5.5-7.5 with orchardgrass generally more tolerant of alkaline than acidic soils. Under ideal conditions, seed will establish in 6-10 days.

Management:

Orchardgrass is very responsive to nitrogen fertility, and requires more than other cool season forage grasses. A split application in spring and fall of 50-150 lbs nitrogen per acre annually is recommended. Apply 1/3 in fall and the other 2/3 in late winter to mid-spring. The fertility requirement for phosphorous and potassium is moderate to high. If P and K are limiting, other cool season grasses such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass can dominate. In mixtures with legumes, the absence of available P and K will significantly contribute to legume decline in forage production systems.

Warrior II should be grazed when 4-5 inches in height or harvested for hay prior to late heading to maximize protein and relative feed value. Delay in harvest will reduce forage quality significantly.

Features

- Intermediate-flowering
- Soft-leaved
- Upright growth
- Heat tolerant
- Humidity tolerant
- Drought resistant
- Continuous grazing
- Foliar disease resistant
- Active winter growth
- Fair to good regrowth

Uses

- Hay
- Pasture
- Rotational grazing

Seeding Rate

15-20 lbs/acre



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