



Forage-type Tall Fescue

Atlas II Forage-Type Tall Fescue is a very early flowering, erect growing, low endophyte, non-winter dormant (Mediterranean), long-lived perennial bunchgrass. Atlas II exhibits excellent seedling vigor. Atlas II is deep rooted, tolerates acidic, high bulk density soils, poor drainage, and is tolerant of drought (Dehydration Avoidance, Beard, 1989).

Application:

Intensive (set stocking); rotational and continual grazing systems; hay and erosion control. Compatible with legumes (Ladino, intermediate white, red clover, and birdsfoot trefoil). Best utilized in areas prone to water-logging or summer drought. Low endophyte, erect growing varieties such as Atlas II should not be grazed closer than 2-3 inches (50-75mm) and in particular should not be overgrazed during summer induced dormancy.

Performance:

During mid-summer/ late fall live weight gains/ ha. are 8-27% higher than those of improved perennial ryegrass.

Characteristics Key

¹Dry matter basis, assuming the crop is grown in an area to which it is adapted using recommended production and harvesting practices.

²Forage quality is best defined in terms of animal performance such as daily gain, milk production, wool production, and reproduction. Extensive research has shown biotic and abiotic factors such as stage of maturity at harvest, plant species, climate, and fertilization can adversely impact forage quality. Crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and total digestible nutrients (TDN) can be negatively affected by as much as 60%, 30%, 40% and 25% respectively among grass and legume species when improperly managed.

XX = Maximum protein and TDN generally when harvested at vegetative, pre-bloom, pre-boot stage under intensive rotational grazing systems.

Features:

- Growth Habit: Perennial Bunch
- Estab. Rate in days: 6-12
- Anerobic Soil Tolerance: Excellent
- pH Range: 4.7-9.5
- Min. Rainfall (inch): >20
- Seeding Rate lb/a: 15-20
- Dry Matter Yields (tonnes¹): 2-4
- Nitrogen Requirement: High, 18-20 /lbs per acre
- Re-growth: Good
- Primary Utilization: 1-Hay, 2-Intense Grazing
- Veg. Reprod. Tiller Rate: Medium - Low
- Endophyte: No
- CP % ²: 18-35
- NDF ²: 50-58
- ADF ²: 30-36
- TDN ²: 63-72



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