



ALBERT LEA SEED

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Timothy (*Phleum pratense* L.)

Description

Timothy (*Phleum pratense* L.) is a perennial, bunch-type, shallow-rooted, cool-season grass which is well adapted to the Northeast and upper Midwest. Its shallow root system, however, make it unsuitable to droughty soils. It is sensitive to high temperatures and mid-summer growth may be limited. Timothy stores energy reserves for re-growth and tillering at the stem base. Its energy storage pattern makes it a better hay crop than a pasture species. Over utilization by grazing livestock and hoof traffic can reduce stands of timothy in a diverse pasture. It is a popular grass species for dry hay and highly sought after due to its high palatability, fine stemmed growth, and persistence.

Overview

Uses: Forage—Pasture—Hay

Strengths: Very winter hardy
Fine stemmed
Very palatable

Weaknesses: Does not withstand heavy traffic
Not sod forming

Plant Information

Winterhardiness: Excellent

Drought-Tolerance: Poor

Wet soil tolerance: Poor

Average Nitrogen Fixation: NA

Forage Yield Range: 3.8 to 6.7 Tons / Acre DM

Relative Forage Quality: about 150 (index value)

Seed and Seeding Info

Seeds per lb:	1,200,000 to 1,300,000
Seeding Rate Alone:	8 – 10 lb / A
Seeding Rate in Mixtures:	2 – 3 lb / A
Range of Seeding Dates:	Spring or Early fall
Methods of seeding:	Broadcast and drag or drill
Best seeding depth:	¼ - ½ in
Best Soil types:	Non-droughty soils
pH tolerances:	6.0 – 7.0

Cultural and Harvest Information

As a grazing crop?

Under grazing management, timothy should not be allowed to progress very far into jointing before grazing. Delaying grazing will reduce the stored energy reserves and ultimately reduce timothy persistence. Grazing in the spring can begin when the timothy is 3-4 inches tall. Timothy will tolerate moderate continuous grazing but rotational grazing with a minimum recovery period of 3 weeks will improve timothy production and persistence. Do not graze two weeks prior to heading. To maintain the longevity of the stand, do not overgraze, especially in the dry summer months. Timothy in pasture will become depleted if the short-lived plants are not frequently reseeded.

As a haying crop?

Timothy is relatively tolerant of pre-joint harvest in early to mid-May but is adversely affected by harvesting during the jointing stage in mid May. In addition, harvesting at early heading reduced timothy yields and persistence, compared to harvesting at either early or late bloom. Do not cut for hay two weeks prior to heading. In the Midwest, timothy makes relatively little yield after the first harvest because of its intolerance to the hot and dry conditions that prevail during summers. Quality of timothy is among the highest of cool- season grasses when vegetative, but decreases very rapidly as reproductive growth is initiated. Timothy hay is especially sought after by horse owners for its clean handling, rapid drying, and good nutritional composition.

Albert Lea Seed House Product Information Guide

The information presented here is based on the best agronomic information we could cull from University Publications and other sources (usually identified). The cultural and agronomic information is relevant only to farming in the upper mid-west. This information is not infallible and is not a substitute for experience and/or education. We **do not guarantee** farming results based on this information.