

Timothy

Phleum pratense L.



Timothy is a cool-season, short-lived perennial bunch grass that reproduces by seed. The smooth stems, 2 to 3 feet tall, are stiffly erect and emerge from a bulbous base to form large clumps. Timothy is used for pasture, silage, and mostly for hay. It is palatable and very nutritious. It is not very competitive with legumes making it a great grass to mix with a clover, alfalfa, or perhaps a trefoil. When grazing, timothy stands become weak under close and continuous grazing. Bulbets form in the spring at the same time the stem elongates, these bulbets contain food material and may be injured by the grazing and trampling of animals under poor grazing management. Timothy can be initially grazed before jointing, and again between early head to full head. Second and successive grazing should also occur before jointing and when basal sprouts appear at the soil surface. Do not graze below three inches. After the second cutting/grazing, growing points stay below the ground.

Timothy thrives best in a cool and humid climate and on rich, moist bottomlands. It prefers a finer textured soil such as clay loam (it does not do well on coarser soils). It does not tolerate drought, or prolonged high temperatures very well. And, under limited moisture conditions, does not recover well. Timothy will grow for a time on low fertility soils, however, it is better adapted to a high fertility soil. It does not do well on wet, flat land where water stands for any sizable length of time.

Clair - produces forage dry matter yields equal or superior to that of newer varieties. In recent variety tests in Virginia, Clair yielded more than the six other timothy varieties included in the study. At another Virginia location, Clair yielded 21% and 24% more than "Timfor" and "Mohawk," respectively, over a three-year period. Finally, Clair yields were equivalent to those of "Tiller," Mohawk, and Timfor in the first year of a University of Kentucky study.

Climax - is a tall, fine-stemmed, leafy, medium-late maturing timothy. Developed by Ag-Canada in 1947, it has been widely used for many years. Climax Timothy is primarily used in hay mixes in the U.S.

Height Range (inches): 12 - 36

Seeding Rate: Drilled: 10-12 Lbs. / Ac | Broadcast: 1 Lb. / 1,800 sq ft

Seeds Per Pound: 1,200,000

Taxonomy

Species: pratense

Genus: Phleum

Family: Poaceae

Order: Cyperales

Subclass: Commelinidae

Class: Liliopsida

Division: Magnoliophyta

Subkingdom: Tracheobionta

Kingdom: Plantae



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