



# FORAGE FIRST®

## Richmond Timothy

- **Early maturing**
- **Very good winter hardiness**
- **Excellent early spring vigor**

 **Elite Variety** symbols represent varieties in the Forage First® portfolio which demonstrate the highest industry standards in quality

**FORAGE FIRST® FACTOR:** Improved varieties of timothy are about improving its faults. Early maturing varieties align more closely when paired with alfalfa's harvest schedules. Timothy's shallow root system can struggle in warm and droughty environments. Increasing seeding rates can compensate for timothy's slow establishment, increasing stand density and weed suppression. What it lacks in vigor, it makes up in winter hardiness.

### SEEDING RATES (LBS/ACRE)

MONOCULTURE  
MIX COMPONENT

**8 - 15**  
**2 - 6**

### SEED INFORMATION

SEEDS/LB  
DEPTH (IN)  
EMERGENCE (DAYS)

**1,152,000**  
**1/4 - 1/2**  
**14 - 21**

### CHARACTERISTICS

ESTABLISHMENT  
PERSISTENCE  
DROUGHT TOLERANCE  
WINTER HARDINESS

**MED** PALATABILITY  
**HIGH** YIELD POTENTIAL  
**MED** GRAZING TOLERANCE  
**HIGH**

**HIGH**  
**MED**  
**MED**

### PLANTING TIMES

SPRING PLANTING  
FALL PLANTING

**MAR - MAY** LIFE CYCLE  
**AUG - SEP**

**PERENNIAL**

### ADAPTATION

Timothy is adapted to a cool and humid climate. Timothy thrives best on rich, moist bottomlands and on finer textured soils, such as clay loams. It does not do well on coarser soils. It prefers a pH of 5.5 to 7.0. Timothy will grow for a time on soils low in fertility, but it is better adapted to a high fertility soil. It is not well adapted to wet, flat land where water stands for any considerable time. Under limited moisture conditions, it makes a poor recovery and does not tolerate drought or prolonged high temperatures. Timothy is very winter-hardy and has high tolerance to cold temperatures and ice encasement.

### ESTABLISHMENT

Timothy is usually seeded in mixes with legumes. This mix may be drilled with a small grain drill. If planted with a winter grain, the timothy is seeded with it, and the legume is planted early the following spring. A firm, weed-free seedbed is a key to a successful planting.

### HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Cut boot to early head for first cut, then every 4 to 6 weeks thereafter.

Timothy is highly responsive to fertilizers, which should be applied frequently in ample quantities. Fertilizer, especially nitrogen, is important when legumes have almost disappeared from the hay or pasture mix. Timothy stands become weak under close and continuous grazing. A fundamental reason for the decline of timothy under poor grazing practices is injury to the corms. These corms form in the spring at the same time the stem elongates. Food materials are stored in them, and they may be destroyed by trampling of grazing animals. 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. After the second grazing, plants usually do not joint. Timothy should be cut for hay or silage from early to full head. Make successive harvests for hay and silage when basal sprouts appear at the soil surface. Sterile seed heads may be 15 to 20 inches up the stems when sprouts appear at the time of second cutting. Growing points stay below ground after a second cutting. Graze or cut to a minimum height of 3 inches or more.

