



FORAGE FIRST®

Echelon Orchardgrass

- Superior leaf disease resistance
- Increased palatability & stand persistence
- Perfect companion for alfalfa or clover mixes
- Extremely late maturing, maintains forage quality longer between harvests
- Well adapted, suited for hay, silage or grazing
- Excellent persistence & vigor

Echelon orchardgrass is a late maturing orchardgrass that offers superior yield and great palatability. It is perfect for alfalfa or clover mixes.

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

FORAGE FIRST® FACTOR: La Crosse Seed works hard to bring varieties forward that exhibit strong disease resistance and tolerate the vigorous management schemes that many producers utilize. Maturity should be considered whether matching this grass with legumes or in a monoculture, as harvesting in the boot stage is the goal. Proper fertility and higher cutting/grazing heights also aid in persistence.

SEEDING RATES (LBS/ACRE)

MONOCULTURE
MIX COMPONENT

15 - 25
3 - 10

SEED INFORMATION

SEEDS/LB **416,000**
DEPTH (IN) **1/4 - 1/2**
EMERGENCE (DAYS) **7 - 21**

CHARACTERISTICS

ESTABLISHMENT	SLOW	PALATABILITY	HIGH
PERSISTENCE	HIGH	YIELD POTENTIAL	HIGH
DROUGHT TOLERANCE	HIGH	GRAZING TOLERANCE	MED
WINTER HARDINESS	HIGH		

PLANTING TIMES

SPRING PLANTING	MAR - MAY	LIFE CYCLE	PERENNIAL
FALL PLANTING	AUG - SEP		

ADAPTATION

Orchardgrass is found from Canada to the Gulf Coast states and from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast. However, orchardgrass is not as winter-hardy as smooth brome or timothy. Orchardgrass performs well on different textured soils ranging from clay to gravelly loams and on shallow to deep soils. It does not grow well in saline soils and areas with high water tables. Orchardgrass has the ability to establish and persist in areas that receive as little as 11 inches of annual precipitation. It performs best in a pH range of 5.8 to 7.0.

ESTABLISHMENT

A clean, firm, weed-free seedbed is recommended. Range and erosion control seedings should be made in the late fall or very early spring. Do not seed after the spring moisture period is well advanced or a failure may occur because of drought and hot summer conditions before the grass is well established. A deep furrow or range drill with press wheels may be used. Orchardgrass is easily established with grain drills at a rate of 8 to 12 lbs/acre (16 to 24 lbs/acre broadcast). For range and critical area treatment a seeding rate of 3 to 4 lbs/acre is recommended (6 to 8 lbs/acre broadcast). Adjustments in seeding rate should be made when seeding in mixes, though seeding depth should never be more than 1/2 inches.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING

BEGIN (IN)	8 - 12	AVERAGE DAYS REST	15 - 30
STOP (IN)	3 - 6		

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

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

Under irrigation and higher rainfall areas, orchardgrass should be cut at boot stage for the first cutting and then at 4 to 6 week intervals depending on regrowth. Rotational grazing is best for production, persistence and quality. Fields should be grazed heavily and frequently during the spring, but do not overgraze. Leave a 3 to 6 inch stubble so plants can recover quickly. Heavy grazing during the late fall should be avoided to prevent depletion of root reserves. Under dry land conditions, orchardgrass should not be grazed until late summer or fall of the second growing season. The plants may be severely damaged by overgrazing especially in the seedling year. Use no more than 60% of the annual growth during the winter season or 50% during the growing season. This plant responds well to rotational grazing systems. Orchardgrass responds to good fertility management. One strategy to even out forage production is to fertilize the stand after the first and second cutting or grazing to boost late spring and summer production.