

ANNUAL RYEGRASS

COOL-SEASON ANNUAL

Key Features

Annual Ryegrass establishes rapidly, which gives high productivity in the planting season. Best suited for grazing, silage, and is great in a cover crop blend. Annual ryegrass increases organic matter (OM) and has dense fibrous root mass that can grow 36 inches into the soil. This is a very easy forage to handle and as a cover crop due to winter kill.

History and Development

Prairie Creek Seed chose to add Annual Ryegrass in the line-up due to the long list of benefits such as decreasing Soybean Cyst Nematode, excellent weed suppression, soil, nutrient recycling, nitrogen recovery, erosion control, and drought resistance. This annual ryegrass has an extensive root system that aids in building soil, prevents compaction, and improves water infiltration. This strain has proven to be one of the easier varieties to control as it comes more uniform in the spring, if it survives. Other varieties can come up in multiple stages, making them tough to eradicate.

Management Keys

This Annual Ryegrass is an easy to manage forage with a variety of applications. Prairie Creek Seed utilizes its benefits in many cover crop blends, but it can be used as a single specie. Many have use it for haylage, grazing, green chop, and many other practices. For haylage it is recommended to chop annual ryegrass between the boot and early head stage. This ensures high digestibility and protein levels. When grazing, make sure the ryegrass is 8-10 inches high before livestock are let out in the pasture. For a second cutting for green chop or grazing, be sure to leave a minimum of 3 inches in length to ensure regrowth. As a cover crop, it can be tilled in or burnt in the spring if it does survive the winter. This variety is susceptible to the winters in the Midwest and will most likely winter kill.

Seeding Rate

12-20 lbs/acre.
20-35 lbs/acre broadcasting.
20-35 lbs/acre aerial.
20 lbs/acre drilling.

Planting Time

Mid-August through
Mid-September
3-10 weeks prior to the first freeze

Seeding Depth

¼" into the seedbed.

