

# BENCHMARK PLUS ORCHARDGRASS

## For Maximum Persistence Under Grazing

- Superior Forage Yield
- Ideal for Pastures or Hay
- Early Maturity
- Great Palatability
- Selected for Persistence Under Heavy Grazing
- Excellent Plant Vigor
- Drought Tolerant
- Stem Rust Resistance
- Maximum Persistence for Haying or Grazing

### Planting Suggestions

Planting Rate (pure stand)	15-20 lbs/acre
Planting Rate (mixture)	4-6 lbs/acre
Planting Depth	1/4-1/2 inch deep
Seeding (Spring)	March 1st to May 15th
Seeding (Summer)	August 1st to September 15th
Soil Type	Moderate to Well Drained
Minimum Soil pH	5.5

### Management Suggestions

Fertilizer pure stand - Nitrogen should be applied in split applications during early Spring & Fall and after 1st cutting. Adequate phosphorus and potassium are also necessary for top production.

### Cutting Schedule

First cutting in Spring should be done before head emergence (Boot Stage). Later cuttings can be made at 4-6 week intervals depending on conditions.

**Grazing** Rotational grazing is preferred for best production, persistence and quality. Fields should be grazed heavily and frequently (every 10-12 days) during the rapid Spring growth period but over-grazing should be avoided. Leave a 3-4 inch stubble for quick recovery.

### Orchardgrass Yield Comparisons

Summarized over Years and Locations (Total Tons Dry Matter/Acre)

<u>Entry</u>	<u>Loc./Yrs.</u>	<u>% Mean</u>
Benchmark Plus	17	100.1
Potomac	17	97.1
Pennlate	17	96.9
Progress	10	96.6
Duke	15	95.2