

TIMOTHY

Phleum pratense



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced Eurasian grass. Widely used as a forage plant and naturalized in many areas of northern U.S. and mountainous areas of the western U.S. Small tufted, cool season, short-lived perennial bunchgrass. Culms erect 2 to 3 1/2', uniformly leafy, with swollen bulb-like bases. Leaf blades soft, flat, up to 12" long.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives in deep, fertile, sandy-loamy, and clayey soils in humid areas. Adapted to thin, gravelly, and rocky soils with moisture. Tolerant of winter flooding but only for a few days during growing season. Best with water table below

6". Generally requires at least 20" ppt. or irrigation for economic production. Tolerant of weakly acidic to weakly basic soils. Excellent winter hardiness. Grown from sea level to alpine. Good shade tolerance. Fair tolerance to fire when dormant. Good compatibility with legumes and cool season grasses.

CULTURE

Drill seed at 1/4 - 1/2" depth in moist soil, 3/4" deep in drier or coarser textured soil. Cover broadcasted seed shallow or use cultipacker. Drill 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre. Increase seeding rate 50-100% for broadcasting, harsh sites, poor seedbed conditions, and wet meadows or for hay crops. Supplemental mulch critical sites. Do not use conventional hydro-mulch methods; seedlings must root in mineral soil. Seed soon after soil disturbance in high mountains. Moderate seedling vigor. Usually well established by second season.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Prized for horse hay and as a dominant in irrigated mountain meadow mixtures. Used in seeding mixtures for stabilizing roadsides, ski slopes and mining activities. Commonly seeded in mixtures with other meadow species. Produces regrowth in early summer and fall in cooler areas with adequate moisture and fertility. Good palatability.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

There were 25 varieties on the National list. Consult with regional, state, and local plant material specialists for materials adapted and suited to specific sites and purposes. Common varieties in this region:

- 'Champ' released from Canada.
- 'Climax' released from Canada.
- 'Drummond' released from Canada.
- 'Winmor' released by Northrup King Co. Minnesota.

PawneeButtesSeed Inc.

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