

Forage Newsletter

Spring 2016



Italian Ryegrass— Quality Control

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Locate a Dealer

To find a dealer near you, scan the QR code below or visit us at:
www.dlforders.com/locator



Minimize Feed Cost, Maximize Forage Production

One critical step in optimizing your livestock operation is to reduce your need to purchase feed. That means maximizing high quality forage production from your land. Grasshancing is a very effective and cost effective way to maintain high production pastures and alfalfa based forage fields. Overseeding pastures is recommended every two or three years to maintain high DM and high quality forage production.

Orchardgrass Availability

Seed Production areas of Oregon have experienced drought and weather conditions for the past two years, and this has negatively impacted the supply of orchardgrass seed in the market. In response to the shortage, farm gate price of orchardgrass seed has increased as much as 80% from spring 2015 to spring 2016. Coated orchardgrass seed has become more common in the market. Coatings may vary from 34% to 50%, and may include hydration products, fungicides, micronutrients, and microbials.

Coating will impact seed count/lb, price/lb, and possible agronomic performance. When comparing orchardgrass products, look at the tag for coating information. Discuss this with your supplier. Use this knowledge to evaluate the future performance of your fields and pastures.

Ask about our orchardgrass varieties:

Early Maturity	Medium Maturity	Late Maturity
Ambassador	Amba	Athos
Olathe	Endurance	Sparta
Century	Inavale	Echelon
		Orca



Grasshanced

A one year old alfalfa plot “grasshanced” with Grasshancer 300FL. By filling in the open spots, forage production is maximized, while maintaining a high forage quality; instead of allowing weeds to come in affecting both yield and quality.

DLF Research Station, Boyd, KY, 2015.



Grasshancer Program

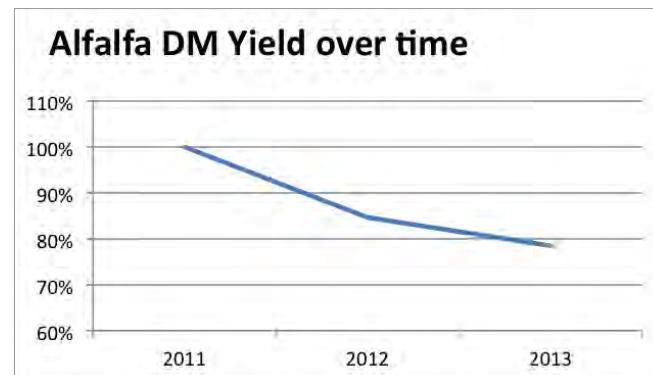
DLF has launched a new product line under the Grasshancer name. Maximize your forage production by enhancing your stands with DLF grass based mixtures, i.e. GRASSHANCE®!

This product line emphasizes on short term grass mixtures, ideally suited for:

- New seeding in a short rotation system
- Overseeding of existing pastures
- Interseeding alfalfa stands

When to Grasshance Alfalfa?

Alfalfa fields decline in production as the stand ages. Already in the first few years, this decline can be quite large. To quantify this, alfalfa yield data from three different University trials were analyzed:



Average of Trial Yield Mean of three University alfalfa trials in: Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. The trial yield data mean in the first year in each trial is rated at 100%. The second and third year is expressed as a percentage of the first year. This value of each the three trials is averaged for each crop year to create the graph.

Conclusion: Alfalfa yields decline fast as the stand ages. In the second year already 15% DM yield loss compared to the first year, in the third year >20% DM yield loss.

The Remedy: To maintain DM yield and forage quality, interseed with Grasshancer 200FL/300FL, starting in the second production year of the stand. This is what we call “grasshancing.”

Grasshancer Products

Contact your dealer about Grasshancer products. Scan the QR code below to find a dealer near you. For a complete list of products, view the Grasshancer Product Guide (on left).



Grasshancer Product Guide

Scan the QR code or visit:
www.dlfis.com/upload/grasshancerpg.pdf



Italian Ryegrass—Quality Control

One very important characteristic of Italian ryegrass is its requirement of vernalization in order to produce reproductive tillers. Vernalization is the exposure to cold temperatures that triggers the plant to go into a generative phase. This makes Italian ryegrass very desirable for a short term spring planted, high yielding, high quality forage crop. It will remain in the vegetative stage and won't produce any reproductive tillers or seed heads; which reduces forage quality (and may produce seed that can shed and contaminate your field).

The seed of Italian ryegrass is not distinguishable from the seed of annual ryegrass (which does not have a vernalization requirement). Hence, a seed analysis will not tell



you whether there is annual ryegrass contamination in your Italian ryegrass seed lot. DLF has instituted a rigorous Quality Control program to ensure 99% true-to-type seed in the varieties we offer. It starts with the proper genetics (DLF varieties of Italian ryegrass have been thoroughly tested on performance and uniformity), followed by seed production field selection and inspection, rounded off by post harvest controls on true-to-type purity.

Be assured you are getting true Italian Ryegrass and ask for DLF varieties.

Forage Maturity Index

DLF has initiated the development of a Forage Maturity Index (FMI) for grasses and legumes. The goal is to have reliable data on the maturity of varieties across species, relative to each other. We are quite familiar with early-, medium-, or late maturity within species, but lack a good tool to translate this into the larger context of multiple species. This becomes important when formulating mixtures and deciding what varieties to use for your specific requirements and conditions.

The American Forage & Grassland Council (AFGC) has adopted this project and in collaboration with other forage breeders, we will start this year with initial trials in multiple locations across the country. These trials serve to establish the protocols for future variety data requirements that can determine its FMI, and to create the initial FMI table.

DLF is very excited to see AFGC and the industry as a whole, cooperate to develop this important tool to assist with making better forage production decisions. It will be a multi year project, but it has started.

Italian Ryegrass

Scan the QR code to learn more about Italian Ryegrass products.



DLF Italian Ryegrass Varieties:

- Fox (diploid)
- Max (tetraploid)
- Zorro (tetraploid)
- Firkin (tetraploid)

Also components in Grasshancer 200.

Learn More

To learn more about DLF Forages, scan the QR code below or visit us at: www.dlfis.com/Forage.aspx



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Vaquero Bermudagrass

For the Southern grazing areas, bermudagrass is the preferred summer crop. Vaquero Bermudagrass consists of the top performing variety CD90160 in hulled form, blended with CD90160 and common Bermudagrass in unhulled form. This will give an early germination, plus a seed bank for later germination; ensuring an excellent stand development.

CD90160 was the top performing seeded variety in Texas A&M trials from 1997-2001 (published in AgriLife Extension SCS-2009-11).



Seeded Bermudagrass Yields

Entry	1999	2000	2001	Avg
	Lb Dry Matter / Acre			
CD90160	9,696	10,347	13,395	7,945
Terra Verde Bermuda	9,054	8,318	11,748	7,251
Cheyenne Bermuda	6,640	8,928	13,431	6,969
Common Bermuda	383	7,445	11,352	6,393
Wrangler Bermuda	188	6,744	7,550	4,827



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