

Demand Grows For Crabgrass Seed

It has been 20 years since FARM SHOW first reported on crabgrass as a forage crop (Vol. 18, No. 2). R. L. Dalrymple now produces and sells two varieties of the seed. Demand continues to grow as more people become familiar with it.

“We sell across the entire country, but the 23 to 25 most South East states are our major market,” says Dalrymple, Dalrymple Farms. “We have a lot of return customers, but there are still a lot of people who haven’t heard of using high production crabgrass for forage.”

Dalrymple’s Red River Crabgrass and Quick-N-Big® crabgrass are different than the low growing weed you find in your lawn. The forage varieties grow 2 to 4 ft. high, spread by stolons and tillers, and produce seed for volunteer re-establishment.

It’s one of the highest-quality summer grasses, stays green until frost, and can continue to be grazed after frost as a stock pile. Forage quality of the crabgrasses is always upper level for summer grasses. Percent protein is relative to nitrogen supply. With adequate nitrogen, percent protein in younger grazing stages can be in the mid 20%. Our hay from crabgrasses usually runs 10% to about 18%, with an overall average of about 12% CP. Grazing stage digestibility is usually from about 60% TDN to over 70% TDN.

Seed prices of both varieties vary some with the year, but is usually around \$7 to \$8 per pound. “In drought our crabgrass fields stayed green longer than other forages, but eventually they turned



Demand continues to grow for improved crabgrass varieties as a forage crop, says R.L. Dalrymple, who sells two varieties of the seed.

brown as well,” says Dalrymple.

He notes that his fields had no measureable rain in 7 weeks in 2011 and more than 40 days with temperatures of 100°F or more. The weather bureau reports the area has had the least rain in 115 years.

“It is mind boggling to me, even though I have worked with crab grasses since 1972,” says Dalrymple. “The Quick-N-Big® still grew knee high and was enough to swath for some seed and bale for hay.”

In a good year, he says, the crop can yield up to 6 tons of dry matter per acre under intensive management. More usual returns are closer to two to three tons of dry matter per acre in a pure stand, which is a lot of high quality grass.

“It can be seeded to a pure stand at a rate of 3 to 6 lbs./acre or used in a mix of summer forages,” he says. “It can also be double cropped with winter legumes and annual grasses.”

Red River Crabgrass is a highly productive, big type runner crabgrass that can get to 2 to 3 feet high at hay stages. Quick-N-Big® crabgrass is a bigger, faster developing crabgrass than Red River. Quick-N-Big® tends to sprout faster than the Red River. When growing conditions are good at sprouting time, Quick-N-Big® crabgrass will outgrow Red River crabgrass and will be near knee high while Red River crabgrass is barely ankle high. Quick-N-Big® crabgrass tends to be better in cooler climates.

Both of these grasses are for high quality summer grazing, and they make high quality summer grass hay as well.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dalrymple Farms, 24275 E. 910 Rd., Thomas, Okla. 73669 (ph 580 670-0043; rlandpat@cableone.net; www.redrivercrabgrass.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 139

BaleSkiis® - How Can They Help?

This simple solution made from hi-tech materials helps improve both new and old balers. The BaleSkiis Baler Liner fits all models of square balers, large and small.

- Makes perfectly compact bales for picking, stacking and transporting
- Increases RFV and forage quality
- Eliminates knotter problems and broken bales
- Reduces wear, breakdowns and down time
- Extends the life of your old baler
- Decreases fuel usage
- Stops bale chamber plugging and buildup

You can watch BaleSkiis in action on YouTube and check them out at Facebook.

BaleSkiis are on sale from January 1 to February 28, 2015. Save \$50 to \$100 off all liners.

Available at all New Holland and Case IH dealers, and many others throughout the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Chile. Made in the USA.



Reader Inquiry No. 140

One way anti-springback pattern machined into all sides

Covers all 4 sides of bale chamber

Pattern keeps hay compressed even when plunger retracts

Special self-adjusting material stabilizes friction

Non-stick properties prevent bale-chamber buildup

Material has 3x the wear resistance of mild steel

MADE IN MONTANA USA

Made to fit all models of square balers, large & small.

LDAG Machinery

Toll Free 866-889-3846 • www.LDAGmachinery.com • Baleskiis@LDAGmachinery.com

MADE IN USA