

Selecting Hybrid Corn for Grazing

Grazing Corn is becoming more and more popular throughout the Prairies and can be a very economical alternative to winter feeding costs. Use the following criteria to select corn hybrids for grazing:

Grazing Corn Selection

Traits	Ideal Grazing Hybrid	Reasoning
Maturity (C.H.U's)	Select varieties that are equal to or slightly above average to your area's C.H.U's	Later maturing varieties will hold plant sugars longer and resist dry breakage
Plant Type	Leafy™ or medium to tall dual purpose plants have the most biomass for grazing and allow for maximum grazing days	PICKSEED Leafy™ and dual purpose varieties have more leaves and higher sugar content that allow for more days and better whole plant utilization
Kernel Type	Later maturing , or Leafy(tm) type varieties will allow for softer kernels in the later fall and early winter for better feed utilization	Hard Kernels can pass through animals without being fully digested, soft kernels are easier to process and allow for more grain digestibility
Standability	Select a variety with good Standability for better resistance to lodging and stalk breakage which can result in lost grazing material	Look for high "Stalk Strength" and "Root Strength" for plants that will stand better in the later months