

## HYBRID BROMEGRASS SEED PRODUCTION

### Field Selection

Hybrid brome grass is a cross between meadow and smooth brome grass and adapts well to a variety of different soil types. In order to produce high quality seed, it is important to start with a field free of noxious weeds, especially couch grass. Also, be sure the field is free of residual chemicals which may hamper establishment of the hybrid brome grass.

### Seeding Rate

Seeding rate is 4-5 lbs/acre at a cost of approximately \$4.50/lb.

### Row Spacing

Hybrid brome grass should be seeded in 12-24" rows and at a depth no greater than 1/2".

### Companion Crop

Hybrid brome grass develops better when seeded alone, and seed yields for the first year of production are considerably higher. If a companion crop is used, using a less competitive crop, increasing row spacing, and reducing seeding and nitrogen rates will increase establishment success. The residue from the companion crop should be removed from the field, which allows the brome grass to develop fully into the fall. Harrowing the field in the fall is recommended if the chaff is covering the brome grass seedlings.

### Weed Control

Hybrid brome is a relatively new crop and there are no herbicides registered for use on it at this point in time. It would appear that hybrid brome grass is tolerant to the same herbicides as smooth and meadow brome grass. For further information on recommended herbicides, please contact one of our Field Representatives.

## **Fertilizer**

Fertilizer should be applied according to soil test recommendations. It is recommended to correct phosphorous, potassium and sulphur deficiencies before seeding. During the seed production years, hybrid bromegrass typically requires 80-100 lbs/acre of actual nitrogen for optimum yields. Approximately 20 lbs/acre should be applied in early September to promote tillering and increase the number of seed-forming tillers. An additional 60-80 lbs/acre can be applied in early October or very early spring prior to the greening of the grass.

## **Harvest**

Hybrid bromegrass is normally harvested in late July to early August. Swathing is done when the seed is in the hard dough stage. At this stage the stem just below the seed head and the seed head will be brown and some mature seeds will shatter when struck against the palm of your hand. Hybrid bromegrass seed should be dried using aeration to a moisture content of 10% for safe storage.

## **Post-Harvest Management**

The straw should be removed from the field as soon as possible following harvest. Once the straw is removed it is recommended to cut the remaining leaves and stubble as short as possible and remove as silage or hay. This allows more tillers to develop and form in direct sunlight, which will increase potential seed yield the following year. Fall regrowth can be grazed or clipped after the first killing frost.

## **Seed Quality**

Canada Certified #1 standards must be met or price reductions will occur. Specific weed seeds that can pose cleaning difficulties include couch grass (quack grass), downy and Japanese bromegrass and all other coarse grasses including wild oats.