

Production Seeding Options

Forage seed production acres are an excellent way to diversify your farming operation and there are many options available two of which include producing AC® Success Hybrid Bromegrass or Timothy. Two completely different crops that have different benefits for growing, but oddly enough do have some similarities as well. The below article looks at two production scenarios and shows why one of these two excellent performing crops may be the right fit for your

AC SUCCESS HYBRID BROMEGRASS

AC Success Hybrid Bromegrass is a dual purpose grass that is widely adapted to Western Canada.

As AC Success' name suggests it is a hybrid, combining the best features of meadow and smooth bromegrass into one superior bromegrass. The variety looks much like smooth bromegrass but it regrows quicker and the root system doesn't creep as much as smooth bromegrass, making it more compatible with alfalfa.

The upright growth characteristic that AC Success Hybrid Bromegrass exhibits promotes easier harvestability than other forage crops like meadow bromegrass.

A key trait that it carried forward from the meadow bromegrass is the quick regrowth. As seed production takes place in August growers need fast regrowth in order to get a high yielding second cut – which AC Success does provide.

The exceptional harvestability and fast regrowth creates the two fold opportunity that seed producers of AC Success Hybrid Bromegrass can take advantage of. Not only does a production field of AC Success produce an income by producing seed it also produces high yields in the fall allowing the crop to be baled, providing a second opportunity for the field to be profitable.



TIMOTHY

Timothy is a well-respected, tried and true forage variety that has been a part of many farming operations over the years.

It is a cool season bunch grass that is shallow rooted with good flood tolerance. These characteristics as well as the fact that it is adapted to a variety of soil zones make Timothy an excellent choice for Western Canada seeding.

Just as with bromegrass, producing Timothy can be a twofold operation. As returns on Timothy are currently lower than some other crops, an advantage to producing Timothy is that it can be underseeded.

By underseeding a field of Timothy with oats, flax or wheat a producer can reap the rewards of a profitable field during the establishment year of the Timothy. After that first year and into the three years of production the price per pound of harvested seed may increase, giving production growers, who have already established their fields, an upper hand in the market.

If the Timothy crop doesn't establish, different insurance establishment programs are available in each province which effectively remove the majority of risks associated with growing forages.

Also, during production years there are various insurance programs that will help a production grower should there be significant production shortfalls. PICKSEED Field Representatives can answer any questions that may arise around the various insurance programs.

PRODCUTION CONTRACTS

PICKSEED is currently looking for growers to produce seed of both AC Success hybrid bromegrass and Timothy. PICKSEED offers the following:

- Interest free financing on Foundation seed until December 31, 2011
- Free agronomic advice and field visits by a field representative
- Freight subsidies dependent on distance from PICKSEED plants
- Advance payment on delivery of the seed

AC SUCCESS HYBRID BROMEGRASS

- Minimum price of \$1.25 /lb for the first two years of seed production

TIMOTHY

- Minimum \$0.60 /lb on 50% of production for the first year of seed production

PICKSEED PRODUCTION CONTACTS

For additional information please visit www.pickseed.com or contact:

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