

TIMOTHY SEED PRODUCTION

Field Selection

Timothy is adapted to a variety of soil types and prefers areas with plenty of moisture and good fertility. In order to produce high quality seed, it is important to start with a field free of noxious weeds. Also, be sure that the field is free of residual chemicals which may hamper establishment of the timothy.

Seeding Rate

Seeding rate is 2-3 lbs/acre at a cost of approximately \$4.50/lb.

Row Spacing

Timothy can be broadcast or seeded in 12" rows at a depth no greater than 1/4". This will allow the stand to produce for at least 3 years before becoming sod-bound.

Companion Crop

Timothy establishes better when seeded alone, and seed yields for the first year of production are 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 timothy to develop fully into the fall. Harrowing the field in the fall is recommended if the chaff is covering the timothy seedlings.

Weed Control

There are a number of herbicides registered for use on timothy. For further information 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, timothy typically requires 80-100 lbs/acre of actual nitrogen for optimum yields. This should be applied in late fall or very early spring prior to the greening of the grass.

Harvest

Harvest generally occurs in mid to late August, depending on the variety. Swathing should occur when there is a trace of shattering and the remainder of the field is a golden colour. It will take approximately 5-10 days for the swath to dry down. Since the seed is very small, combines should be thoroughly checked for leaks. Concave clearance should be 1/16"-3/8" at the front and 1/16"-1/8" at the rear. Cylinder speed should be approximately 800 rpm. The top sieve should be adjusted to 1/2" and the preferred bottom sieve is a 1/16" round hole. The fan shaft speed should be at approximately 400-650 rpm. Timothy seed should be dried using aeration to a moisture content of 10% for safe storage.

Post-Harvest Management

All straw after combining should be removed from the field as soon as possible. This will help to maximize future yields since the straw can inhibit regrowth and can potentially lead to disease problems.

Seed Quality

Canada Certified #1 standards must be met or price reductions will occur. Specific weed seeds that can pose cleaning difficulties include cleavers, night flowering catchfly, bladder campion, curled dock and all brassica species.