

Chiefton

REED CANARYGRASS

(Low-alkaloid)

Chiefton is a high yielding, low alkaloid cultivar developed by the late Dr. Robert Kalton of Land O' Lakes Research. Dr. Kalton was a renowned forage grass breeder and developed such other popular canarygrass varieties as Venture and Palaton. Chiefton represents his most improved cultivar and is a top performing variety on the market today.

History

Chiefton Reed canarygrass is a vigorous, productive, long-lived perennial grass adapted over a wide range of climatic and geographic regions. It is adapted to soils too wet for brome, fescue, and orchardgrass. Chiefton is very cold tolerant and will withstand temperatures well below -30 degrees F. It is adapted to a wide range of soil types but its major use is on poorly drained soils or those subject to flooding. Once established, Chiefton can withstand continuous flooding for up to 60-70 days.

Management Tips

New seedings should not be grazed until fully established. It is best to harvest for hay one to two times before grazing. To maintain plant vigor and promote rapid regrowth, leave stubble of 6 inches after mowing or grazing. Spring grazing can begin once plants reach a height of 10-12 inches. Harvest hay when the first seed heads appear. Nutritional value and palatability decline quickly after seed heads emerge. Chiefton will perform best with an annual application of nitrogen fertilizer.

Penn State University Forage Trials

Dry Matter Yields (Tons/Acre) at 12% moisture

Variety	over four harvests		1996-97 Average
	1996	1997	
Chiefton	3.03	5.87	4.45
Palaton	2.58	5.57	4.07

Cornell University Forage Trials

Dry Matter Yields (Tons/Acre) at 12% moisture

Variety	1996	1997
Chiefton	6.36	4.77
Palaton	6.17	4.73
Venture	6.27	4.63
LSD @ 5%	0.42	0.38

Features

- ▶ Extremely versatile, high-performing grass for hay, pasture, and rotational grazing
- ▶ Very high yields – in excess of 5.5 tons/acre
- ▶ Well suited for seeding **filter fields** which collect wastewater from food processing plants, livestock operations and waste
- ▶ Good seedling vigor and improved resistance to leave diseases treatment plants

Benefits

- ▶ Chiefton has no tryptomine and carboline alkaloids and will not cause digestive upsets
- ▶ Winter-hardy and very persistent
- ▶ Withstands multiple cuttings and is an excellent choice for intensive, rotational grazing
- ▶ Tolerates wet soil and flooded conditions, yet demonstrates excellent drought tolerance
- ▶ Higher nutrient values than brome, orchardgrass or timothy

Seeding Rate

- ▶ Seeding rates are 8-10 lbs/acre when planted as a pure stand and 5-7 lbs/acre in mixtures
- ▶ Chiefton should be planted in spring or fall at a depth not to exceed 1/4-1/2 inches
- ▶ Germination should occur in 21 days provided adequate heat, light and moisture are present. If necessary, irrigate to maintain surface moisture until plants are well established
- ▶ A clean, weed free seedbed is important for optimum stand establishment

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SEED RESEARCH FORAGE DATA SHEET

Nutritional Values of Selected Forage Grasses

Forage Grass Species	Nutritional Values						Forage Characteristics		
	% Crude Protein	% C.P.* (late)	% ADF**	% NDF***	% Ca	% P	Growth Habit	Avg. Days Germination	Seed/lb. (average)
Chiefton-vegetative	18	11	34	54	.40	.27	Sod	21	610,000
Bromegrass-late veg.	16	10	35	65	.32	.37	Sod	14	136,000
Orchardgrass-early	15	8	34	61	.27	.34	Bunch	16	570,000
Timothy	15	8	32	61	.53	.25	Bunch	10	1,230,000

* % crude protein at late bloom
 ** ADF – Acid Detergent Fiber (low values mean more digestible)
 *** NDF – Neutral Detergent Fiber (low values mean animals can eat more)

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