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John Waller, Univ. of TN

Unmatched Persistence - High Yielding - High Quality

If you want an orchardgrass that will last, even under intense grazing pressure, look no further than Persist! Recently released from the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Persist was specifically selected for long-term performance and persistence under grazing.

Persistence – The most significant and important attribute of Persist is persistence. In Tennessee, after four years of a grazing experiment, in which there was additional grazing and drought stress during the last two years, there was a 70-80% stand of Persist compared to a 0-10% stand of Benchmark in the pastures that were initially seeded in pure stand (without clovers). Even after six years, the Persist stand was still very adequate for grazing!



Close-up of 1996 planting near Memphis. Photo taken August '03, nearly 8 years after planting!

Yield – In trials in Tennessee and Kentucky, Persist has consistently demonstrated the ability to produce high yields. In Tennessee, the yield of Persist exceeded that of the mean in each year and was significantly greater in the last 2 years at Knoxville, indicating longer persistence.

University of KY – YIELD DATA 2004		
Variety	Quicksand	Lexington
Persist	5.96	5.34
Intensiv	Not entered	5.14
Tekapo	5.65	Not entered
Prairie	5.55	Not entered
Udder	5.52	4.76
Crown Royal Plus	5.45	Not entered
Takena II	5.45	4.69
Haymate	4.84	Not entered
Hallmark	4.62	4.43
Vision	5.77	3.89
LSD	0.34	0.66

In trials at Lexington and Princeton, KY in 1993 and 1994, which included 22 cultivars and experimental breeding lines, Persist produced the highest yield over the 2 years at both locations. In 2004 Persist out-yielded all commercially available varieties, and all but one experimental variety at both the Lexington and Quicksand locations.

Quality/Feed Value - Persist is equal to Benchmark, Potomac, Haymate and Warrior in crude protein, acid detergent fiber, and neutral detergent fiber concentrations

Establishment/Vigor - Persist is easily established and has excellent seedling vigor. Use of white clover or other legumes can also increase persistence and yield.

Maturity – Persist is similar in maturity date to Potomac and Benchmark but consistently produces more forage later in the season.

Adaptation – Persist is adapted from the northern to the extreme southern range of the middle southern USA.

Seeding Rate - Seed Persist at 12-15 lbs per acre for straight seedings. If using with other grasses, rate should be reduced to 5-6 lbs. For best weed control plant clovers after adequate establishment and weed management has been performed.

Now you know why we say, "Plant for Keeps!"

This is partial trial information. For a complete report, contact Smith Seed Services.