

Matua

KEYS FOR SUCCESS

When well managed, Matua is an incredible forage, greatly enhancing animal performance. However a few very important rules need to be obeyed to ensure this success. Farmers who ignore one or more of these following guidelines might experience less than optimum results.

- ▶ Plant Matua on well drained soils of medium to high fertility.
- ▶ Matua is not extremely winter-hardy. Avoid planting in USDA hardiness zones 1-4, and proceed with caution in zone 5. Reliable snow cover enhances survival.
- ▶ Harvest Matua only when the plant is in boot or early seed stage
- ▶ Do not set-stock graze Matua, it must have a rest period (25-35 days) and leave 3-4" stubble.
- ▶ Matua should not be stockpiled like with fescues. However, it should be grazed in the late fall/early winter if excess growth has occurred.
- ▶ Matua needs Nitrogen in order to perform. Spring application of at least 40-50 lbs. N/acre is recommended. After that 30-40 lbs per acre following each harvest or grazing is required.
- ▶ Let Matua drop seed at least once a year. This will ensure persistence for the coming year. In the South, letting it drop seed in the spring will ensure survival over the summer. Further North, letting it drop seed in the fall will permit spring germination thus restoring the stand in event of winter damage.
- ▶ Don't plant Matua too deep. The seed needs to be covered but not deeper than one-quarter inch.

Establishment

Seed should be planted at a maximum of 1/4 inch deep. Two directional (cross) drilling is preferred. Only certified Matua is processed to ensure easy flow through drills. However, if the seed is exposed to moisture prior to planting, flowability might be affected. Broadcast seeding also is effective, provided a firm seedbed is prepared and the surface lightly harrowed after seed broadcast, followed by rolling or cultipacking. Fall planting is preferred due to the absence of weed competition. When planted in the spring it should be done as early as possible. In arid areas, irrigation should be available as back up. Once established early grazing or cutting may be the best means of weed control. The use of a cover crop is not necessary, Matua itself is the covercrop.

The recommended seeding rate is 30 pounds per acre if drilled and 40 pounds if broadcast, adjust if situations are less than ideal.

With compliments,



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Matua

Prairie Brome grass



- ▶ CAN UTILIZE HIGH LEVELS OF NITROGEN AND EFFLUENT WASTE
- ▶ LONG GROWING SEASON
- ▶ EXTREMELY PALATABLE, EVEN WHEN IN SEEDHEAD
- ▶ HIGH QUALITY FORAGE
- ▶ HEAT TOLERANT

 **BARENBRUG**

BARENBRUG

Grasslands Matua Prairie Brome grass

Bromus Willdenowii Kunth

Prairie Brome grass is a native of the Pampas of South America. It is a relative of smooth brome grass, but differs as it does not have rhizomes and also produces seed heads each growth period, especially during the summer. It is best described as a short lived perennial, living two to three years, but because of its unusual seeding habit, its dropped seed will perpetuate and give long stand life. Matua was one of the first truly improved varieties of this specie. It is a highly palatable, high quality, cool season grass that will survive in even the warmer areas of the South. Unlike other varieties, Matua has a proven track record in the U.S. and other countries. Matua is bred and produced in New Zealand. It is exclusively imported and marketed into the United States by Barenbrug USA and is the leading grass of its type.



MANAGEMENT

QUALITY GRAZING

In a rotational or intensive grazing program, Matua can be expected to provide some of the highest quality grass forage available. One key advantage of Matua is the fact that it keeps its palatability and quality even as it approaches maturity. Unlike other grasses it does not produce a lot of lignin which makes plants unpalatable and indigestible.

Matua extends the grazing season by producing earlier, growing later and staying palatable even in the hot summer months. It can easily rival the feed value of alfalfa and out produce ryegrass and orchardgrass by as much as 40 percent. When grazed, clover can be added to the stand. Tripoli is recommended for the transition zone of the USA and Alice in the more temperate regions. Clover will fix extra Nitrogen and will increase both yield and palatability of the pasture.

Grazing management is the key to maximum production, quality, and stand life. For optimum gain per acre, regrowth and persistence, Matua should be grazed in a strict rotation and harvested only after the plant reaches the boot or early seed stage. A rest period of 25-35 days is required between harvests depending on the time of year. Faster in the cooler periods, slower during the warmer summer months. Matua will not tolerate continuous grazing or grazing under wet/muddy conditions.

CUTTING FOR HAY OR SILAGE

Matua can fit well into any operation as a hay crop or as silage. Because of its high digestibility, protein and energy, Matua makes excellent feed either in a pure stand or in a mixture with Clover or alfalfa. When planted with alfalfa it does a few things: it will allow extra years of harvesting the hay field, it will also

increase the energy content of the hay or haylage. With excellent regrowth potential it can be cut several times during each growing season. Stands in Missouri have been cut 5 times, while stands in Pennsylvania are often cut 6 times per year. Also, Matua is less susceptible to diseases.

EFFLUENT UTILIZATION

Matua is well known for its role in wastewater utilization. Dairy farmers in Idaho and Washington, Poultry farmers in Indiana and Missouri, as well as hog operation in North Carolina and Tennessee grow Matua to utilize wastewater from their operations. Matua has exceptional capacity to utilize high amounts of Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorus from wastewater. Research done by Texas Tech University indicates that growing Matua can be a highly effective wastewater management tool. Frequent small applications in the equivalent of 50 pounds of Nitrogen per acre works best. These smaller applications allow Matua to utilize the maximum percentage of available nutrients.

Recently, Matua has been placed on the approved list for wastewater management in the state of North Carolina it is listed under the category "Rescuegrass". This allows farmers in this state to include Matua in their wastewater management plan.

