

# DROVER

## ENDOPHYTE-FREE TALL FESCUE

**BARENBRUG**

**TALL FESCUE**

Drover is a high yielding persistent cool season perennial forage grass. This traditional tall fescue has exceptional yields and persistence for an endophyte free variety. Drover was developed from surviving fescue plants found in an abandoned forage trial. In the late nineties a yield and persistence trial performed at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma was devastated by a severe drought in the region. Although other varieties and species did not survive, a few plants were collected for breeding and seed increase which lead to the development of Drover. The overall forage quality of Drover is similar to Fawn fescue with superior yield and persistence. Drover does not cause the usual health problems associated with livestock feeding on toxic fescue. Drover is more persistent than orchard grass, perennial ryegrass and other traditional endophyte free tall fescue.

- ▶ Perennial cool season forage grass
- ▶ No toxic endophytes
- ▶ Safe for all livestock
- ▶ High yields
- ▶ Persistent



### **ADAPTATION - CLIMATE**

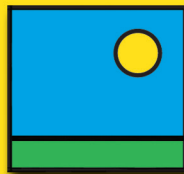
Drover is adapted to anywhere tall fescue is grown. The variety has exhibited excellent persistence in areas that traditional endophyte free varieties have shown limited potential. Drover is most adapted to areas of 30 inches or greater of annual rainfall but also works well in arid or semiarid climates under irrigation.

### **ADAPTATION - SOIL**

Drover is adapted to sandy loam to heavy fertile clay soils that retain some moisture with a 6.0-8.0 pH. Drover does not do well on sandy dry soils with low fertility.

**BARENBRUG**

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### USES

Drover is suitable for grazing horses, sheep and cattle during the fall, winter and spring months. It is well suited to hay production and other mechanical harvesting. Drover is robust and high yielding. Drover maybe stockpiled in the fall for a standing hay crop in the winter.

### ESTABLISHMENT

Drover should be planted into a weed free site. Planting may be done with a precision or no-till drill for best results. Broadcasting seed onto a well prepared seedbed and dragging in can provide acceptable results as well. Plant seeds no deeper than 1/2 inch deep in a firm seed bed when moisture is available in the fall or early spring. Avoid grazing until plants are at least 9" tall.

### SEEDING RATE

Precision drilled rate: 25 lbs / acre  
Broadcast seeding rate: 30 lbs / acre

### MANAGEMENT

Drover may be grown under irrigation or in dry-land areas suitable for traditional cool season perennial forage grasses. It tolerates hot dry summers and cold winters. Under dry-land conditions fertilize with 30 units of Nitrogen in the fall (October) and 30 units in the spring (March). Under irrigation double rates of fertilization may be used to optimize yields. Grazing can begin in the fall following the year of establishment. Grazing from 10" down to 5" is recommended. It can tolerate grazing down to 3" stubble height but this will decrease its ability to survive extreme drought. Rotational grazing is recommended. Take half and leave half is the rule.

#### NEBRASKA

##### WEST CENTRAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NORTH PLATTE

##### 2001-2003 3YR AVERAGE (TONS/ACRE)

<b>DROVER</b>	<b>7.98</b>
KY31	7.70
JESUP MAXQ	6.87

##### NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CENTER LOS LUNAS 2005-2006 2YR AVERAGE (TONS/ACRE)

<b>DROVER</b>	<b>6.94</b>
JESUP MAXQ	6.44
FAWN	5.41

##### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PLANT SCIENCE FARM ATHENS 2008-2009 2YR AVERAGE (LBS/ACRE)

<b>DROVER</b>	<b>9644</b>
JESUP MAX Q	9312
KY31	8705



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