Common Forage Species of Maritime Pastures

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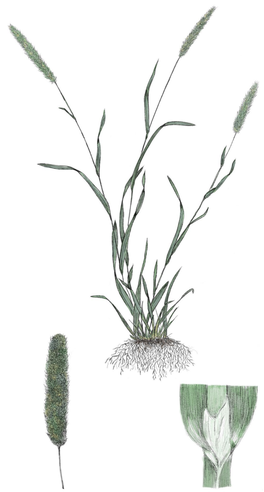
TIMOTHY
Phleum pratense L.



RECOMMENDED FOR:
HAY AND SILAGE

- Long cylindrical seed head; looks similar to meadow foxtail
- Onion-like bulbs (corms) at base of stems
- Frequent grazing will exhaust plant reserves and lead to loss of plants

TALL FESCUE
Festuca arundinacea

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Adaptable to many growing environments
- Retains quality in fall and can be used for stockpile grazing
- Coarse leaves can impact animal palatability

MEADOW FESCUE
Festuca pratensis

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Adaptable to many growing environments
- Softer leaves than tall fescue; more palatable
- Known for improved quality over tall fescue

ORCHARDGRASS
Dactylis glomerata

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Strong spring and summer regrowth
- Quickly loses nutritive quality once the seedhead emerges
- Regrowth after initial harvest is typically vegetative and maintains quality

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
Poa pratensis L.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Shorter growth habit than some other grasses
- Sod-forming and recommended in high traffic areas
- Does not tolerate hot summer temperatures

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS
Lolium perenne

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Comes in two forms, diploid and tetraploid, each with different growth characteristics
- Known for high quality forage
- Susceptible to winterkill

MEADOW BROMEGRASS
Bromus riparius Rehm.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Good quality grazing forage with strong regrowth after harvest or grazing
- Difficult to establish and limited potential to fill in bare spots
- Large seeds that can have difficulty moving through seeder
- Meadow bromegrass leaves have fine hairs. Smooth bromegrass leaves can have "W or M" watermarks

REED CANARYGRASS
Phalaris arundinacea L.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Prefers wetter soils
- Strong growth and regrowth, quickly loses quality once the seedhead emerges
- Difficult to establish but once established can spread through rhizomes

RED CLOVER
Trifolium pratense L.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Short lived perennial clover
- Easy to establish whether by broadcasting or drilling
- Bloat risk for ruminants if eaten in high volumes when less mature
- Fine hairs on leaves and stems

WHITE CLOVER
Trifolium repens L.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Comes in large-, intermediate-, or small-leafed types
- Large-leafed types have more upright growth than the others
- Spreads through stolons near ground level

BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL
Lotus corniculatus L.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Should not be grazed or cut short in season without a long rest
- High tannin levels
- More tolerant to low pH and heavier soils than alfalfa

ALFALFA
Medicago sativa L.

RECOMMENDED FOR:
SILAGE, ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND HAY

- Widely grown; strong growth throughout season and drought tolerant
- Does not persist on heavy and/or wet soils
- Limited tolerance to soils with pH less than 6.0