

# RYEGRASS

Marshall, Nelson,  
and Gulf



## Background:

Annual Ryegrass, sought after for its extreme cold tolerance, is used for pastures, where it yields in high forage production.

Ryegrass can be used as a cover crop, forage, or even used for hay production. Ryegrass also establishes quickly in the soil, making it an excellent choice for soil protection and weed management. Ryegrass has a very moderate tolerance to wet soils and temporary flooding.

An outstanding winter forage, it is estimated that Ryegrass accounts for two and a half million acres of forage in the U.S. every year. The most common uses of Ryegrass is either to be grazed by cattle or as an early-season forage overseeded into bermudagrass.

## VARIETIES

### Marshall:

Height (Ungrazed): About 3.5–4 ft.  
Cold Tolerance: High  
Maturity (Flowering): Late Spring  
Reseeds with Marshall Ryegrass ONLY

### Nelson:

Height (Ungrazed): about 4 ft.  
Cold Tolerance: Medium  
Maturity (Flowering): Mid Spring  
Tetraploid – does not reseed

### Gulf:

Height (Ungrazed): about 3 ft.  
Cold Tolerance: Low to Medium  
Maturity (Flowering): Early to Mid Spring  
Reseeds with most varieties of Ryegrass

## Planting:

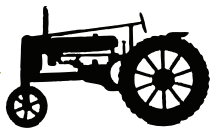
Soil Preparation: Plant Ryegrass in early Fall and throughout the Winter seasons. Little to no soil preparation is needed for Ryegrass.

Seed Depth: 0.25"

Seed Rate:

Broadcast 35 lbs/acre  
Drill 30 lbs/acre

Fertilize about five weeks after planting and whenever the forage is thinning. After mowing or haying, fertilize to stimulate a lush re-growth. Ryegrass pastures used solely for grazing require less fertilization per year.



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