

# HayKing

## Hi-Gest® Sudangrass

### Unique

- Superior forage quality verses hybrid sorghum x sudangrass with reduced prussic acid risk
- Superior forage quality when compared to open pollinated sudangrass
- Seasonal tonnage equal to corn silage
- Multiple harvests as pasture, hay or silage

### Low Input Requirements

- Requires minimum tillage and seed bed preparation
- Efficient utilization of applied nitrogen
- Tolerates manure applications
- Very water-use efficient with few weed or pest concerns

### Easy to Manage

- Plant from mid-spring through mid-summer
- Multiple harvests starting at 24 inches of height
- Tolerates heat and moisture stress
- Reaches baling moisture 1-2 days sooner than sorghum x sudangrass hybrids

### Enhanced Animal Performance

- Preferred by livestock in side by side grazing trials
- Improved intake at the feed bunk
- Improved fiber digestibility
- More milk or beef per acre

**A unique summer annual crop that has low input needs, easy management and multiple harvests each season as pasture, dry hay or silage.**



**Free HayKing Crop Overview and Forage Production Guide**  
Contact us: [www.hi-gest.com](http://www.hi-gest.com) or 800-824-8585

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# HayKing

## Hi-Gest® Sudangrass



**Using the BMR Pathway to Improved Animal Performance**



**A fast growing, summer annual with multiple harvest flexibility that carries the brown midrib trait to reduce lignin in the plant for improved palatability, intake and enhanced animal performance.**

### Hybrid Development

HayKing is the result of a breeding program started in 1987 to introduce the brown midrib trait into hybrid sudangrass. After almost two decades of inbred line development, test crosses and wide spread evaluation, Hi-Gest Sudangrass was commercialized in 2007. Since its introduction, the HayKing hybrid has established itself as a on-farm forage leader around the world.



### Hi-Gest Trait

Brown midrib is a visible trait associated with the reduction of lignin in corn, sorghum, and pearl millet. Two decades of intensive CalWest breeding have introduced the trait into hybrid sudangrass and results show reduced lignifications, reduced cell-wall concentration, increased digestibility and increased voluntary feed intake by ruminant animals. The hybrids carrying the brown midrib trait from Cal/West Seeds are identified as Hi-Gest® Sudangrass.



### Field Appearance and Characteristics

At the seed head emergence, HayKing plants will be 5-7 feet tall, carry fine stems, exhibit profuse tillering and appear very leafy in comparisons to the other forage sorghum types. A C-4 grass with medium dark green plant color, with long, narrow leaves featuring the brown midrib vein. The brown midrib is also expressed at the nodes and stalk. Features an extensive, fibrous root system.



### Crop Utilization

HayKing is a very versatile crop that can be grown as the season's primary crop, double cropped, used as emergency forage. HayKing's forage can be fed on the farm or sold as a cash crop. The traditional on farm use has been as rotational grazing by beef, dairy or sheep during the permanent pasture summer slump. HayKing's fine stems and improved dry-down have expanded its usage as dry hay on the farm or as cash crop hay. Dairymen have also discovered that HayKing can supplement for corn silage short-falls in their TMR; plus provide a place to go with manure during the growing season.



### Yield and Forage Quality

Seasonal yields can range from 3.0-7.0 tons of dry matter per acre or 12-28 tons per acre green weight depending upon location and management. Similar to corn silage for seasonal yield. Expect HayKing to be higher in crude protein, slightly lower in energy due to lack of grain than corn silage. Comparable to corn silage for fiber digestibility and higher for calcium, phosphorus and potassium. A forage that can be easily balanced for lactating cows, dry cows, calves or heifers with an accurate feed test.



### Management Keys

These management keys are described in detail in a twelve page publication titled "Hi-Gest Sudangrass, Crop Overview and Forage Production Guide." Online at [www.hi-gest.com](http://www.hi-gest.com) or in print by calling 800-824-8585.



- Plant after danger of spring frost has passed
- Preplant 100 pounds of nitrogen or equivalent manure.
- Adjust seeding rate for the area and available moistures. 34,000 Seeds/Pound. See chart below.
- Begin harvest at approximately 50 inches for best balance of tonnage and quality. If grazing, harvest can begin at a minimum of 24 inches.
- Normally 50-60 days to first harvest and 30-40 days between harvests.
- Leave 2-4 inches of stubble at harvest to encourage rapid re-growth and multiple harvests.
- Top dress as needed.
- Follow all sorghum species precautions to avoid nitrate and/or prusaic acid concerns.

Geographic Area Range	Inches of Annual Rainfall	Recommended Seeding Rate/Acre in 6-18 Inch Drilled Rows
Northeastern, Southeast Midwest and MidSouth	30+	30 - 60 + pounds
Eastern Great Plains Minnesota to East Texas	20 - 30	20 - 30 + pounds
Western Great Plains North Dakota to Texas	Less than 20 Irrigated	15 - 30 + pounds 30 - 50 + pounds
Pacific Northwest and InterMountain States	Irrigated - Domestic Hay Irrigated - Export Hay	40 - 60 + pounds 80 - 120 + pounds
California and Southwest States	Irrigated - Domestic Hay Irrigated - Export Hay	50 - 100 + pounds 100 - 150 + pounds