

E² Mixes

Alfalfa is the mainstay forage for confinement dairies across the United States. It is rich in protein and is sought after for its high forage yields. However, it lacks the rumen correcting digestible fiber of high-quality grass to help alleviate acidosis. The queen of forages requires the King of forages to reign supreme!

E2-604

60% Hybrid Alfalfa X42
40% Softleaf Tall Fescue

E2-820

80% Hybrid Alfalfa X42
20% Softleaf Tall Fescue

E2-631

60% Hybrid Alfalfa X42
30% Softleaf Tall Fescue
10% Leafy Orchardgrass

The Practice of growing grasses with alfalfa is not new but it has always had challenges such as: Which grass species to grow with a particular dormancy alfalfa; which grass variety to use for feeding high producing dairy cows; and how to sow the alfalfa and grass together. After many years of research in collaboration with university scientists and parallel grass breeding efforts, Barenbrug has solved the energy puzzle.

E² contains grasses that grow in the same rhythm as alfalfa.

- Our late heading soft leaf tall fescue varieties (STF-43) are ideal for planting with alfalfa. They mature to boot stage (ideal time to harvest grass) at the same time alfalfa is reaching mid bloom.
- Unlike traditional orchard grass, the grasses in E2 are non-clumping, fine leaved and do not crowd out the alfalfa.
- Unlike timothy, they can withstand low cutting heights and regrow at the same rate as alfalfa after cutting. Thus maintaining a uniform proportion of grass and alfalfa at different cuttings.

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At A Glance

Key Features:

- High energy grasses x high energy alfalfa
- E2 contains grasses that grow in the same rhythm as alfalfa
- E2 contains grasses and alfalfa that have very high energy values, ideal for high producing dairy cows
- E2 grasses and alfalfa are formulated for sowing in a single pass in one drill box.
- E2 increases yield and stand longevity.

Best Uses:

Haylage / Dry Hay

Establishment:

Seeding Rate: 20-25lb/A

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- Genetically improved grasses with lower NDF but higher NDFd than traditional grasses. Thus they provide balanced fiber profile of the silage which is balanced for energy (from grass) and protein (from alfalfa).
- The NDF of the msSunstra hybrid alfalfa also has better digestibility than traditional alfalfa leading to greater portion of rumen digestible energy from fiber which improves rumen health.
- The grasses in E² are very drought tolerant and deep rooted; and thus match the agronomic characteristics of alfalfa. These stress tolerant grasses have less variability in the forage quality (NDF and NDFd) between different cuttings. Thus Dairy farmers can put different cuttings in the same silage bunk.

E² alfalfa and grasses are formulated for sowing in a single pass in one drill box.

- Alfalfa and grass seed in E² are normalized in size by a proprietary seed coating called Yellow Jacket. This provides for even flow of both species through the drill and no separation.
- Yellow Jacket improves establishment by stabilizing the moisture regime around the seed under limited soil conditions
- Yellow Jacket also improves seed germination in saline/alkaline soils

E² increases yield and stand longevity.

- Multiple research trials have shown that E² increases the dry matter yield per acre by as much as 1 ton per acre compared to alfalfa alone planted in a monostand.
- E² has better tolerance to potato leaf hopper than alfalfa alone.
- E² provides higher tonnage over long term in poorly drained soils compared to alfalfa alone.
- Stable yields even in low pH soils.
- Better winter hardiness / overwintering compared to alfalfa alone.
- Better drying in windrows to decrease the time from swathing to baling to green chopping for silage thus improving over all forage quality.

