



STF-43 Soft Leaf Tall Fescue



STF-43 is an innovative blend of premiere soft-leaf tall fescues which produce impressive yields with high levels of digestible fiber. This blend is the result of Barenbrug's forage analyses program which measure NDF (neutral detergent fiber) and NDFd (NDF digestibility). Barenbrug identified significant differences in the amount of fiber and its digestibility between varieties and formulated STF-43 with the highest amounts of digestible fiber.

STF-43 provides energy derived from highly digestible fiber that not only increases productivity but also promotes rumen health. STF-43 is late-maturing, endophyte-free and well-suited for hay and haylage production as well as grazing. STF-43 is an excellent choice for interplanting with alfalfa.

Adaptation—Climate

STF-43 exhibits winter-hardiness as well as heat and drought tolerance.

Adaptation—Soil

STF-43 is deep rooted and will have peak performance in fields with a deep soil profile. STF-43 also performs on poorly drained soils.

At A Glance

Key Features

- Soft-leaf, late-maturing
- Yields equal to or greater than alfalfa
- High amounts of digestible fiber
- High palatability
- Excellent persistence
- Pairs well with alfalfa for planting together or interseeding

Establishment

Seeding Rate

Full cultivation rate: 25 lbs/acre

Plant with alfalfa:

(50% STF-43 - 50% Alfalfa):
12 lbs/acre STF-43 & 8 lbs/acre alfalfa

Interplanting into alfalfa

via no-till: 12-20 lbs/acre



1828 Freedom Rd.
Suite 101
Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 687-6224

High Energy Forages and Soil Building Cover Crops

Forage Tech Sheet



Uses

As a result of its high dry matter production and an exceptional amount of highly digestible fiber (NDFd), STF-43 is best utilized for hay and haylage production. It is an exceptional companion for alfalfa because it is late-maturing, drought tolerant and winter-hardy. As a companion to alfalfa, STF-43 improves stand persistency and is adapted to conditions in which alfalfa does not thrive, such as poorly drained soils. STF-43 can also be used for pasture because of its soft leaved nature.

Establishment

STF-43 may be planted in spring or late summer. In areas with extreme summers (hot and dry), fall seeding is recommended. A well-prepared, firm seedbed is ideal for seeding STF-43. A Brillion seeder or a drill with depth control will provide good results. Plant no deeper than ½ inch. To extend a thinning alfalfa field, STF-43 can be no-till drilled into the alfalfa stand. When planting, cross drill or stagger the grass with the existing alfalfa. Ideal time to no-till STF-43 into alfalfa is late summer or early fall to reduce competition.

Management

The recommended fertilization rate for a pure stand of STF-43 is 150 units of nitrogen/acre/year. When grown with alfalfa, 75 units of nitrogen is the recommended rate. All forms of nitrogen are acceptable, but ammonium sulfate has shown to be an excellent source of nitrogen for grass. Do not use more than 30-40 units of nitrogen in any one application. Appropriate cutting height of STF-43 is important for good regrowth. After cutting, there should be leaves remaining on the grass plant. For mechanical harvest, raise the cutting bar.