Forage Tech Sheet

Oberkulmer Spelt

Oberkulmer is a robust Swiss cultivar tested in Ohio since 1989. Oberkulmer is a true spelt containing no wheat germ plasma in its parentage. It has 3-5% higher grain protein than Champ. Oberkulmer is awnless, has brown chaff, large heads and large kernels. The straw yield is excellent.

Oberkulmer is our latest maturing spelt and also the tallest. Plant heights can reach above 60 inches. Forage yields are comparable to the slightly shorter Comet. The color is a true green/"Kelly green", as opposed to Comet's dark green and Sungold's bluish hue.

Lodging can be a problem, especially with high rates of nitrogen. Adapted for feed or food usage, Oberkulmer has very good milling quality, but only average baking strength.

Straw is becoming increasingly valuable and spelt provides some of the best straw available. Spelt straw is very fine and extra absorbent as a bedding. Yields of up to 100 bales per acre are common.

Soil Adaptation
Wet – Difficult because wet areas may exacerbate winterkill problems and interfere with harvesting.

Drought – Fair. Productive during fall and spring, which tends to reduce drought risk.

pH Range –6.0 and above

Cutting Management
Harvest is later than wheat. Cut or graze at flag leaf stage before head has emerged for forage use. Leave a 2-4" residual height. Can be grazed lightly in fall before dormancy, but be sure that crowns are not destroyed.

For grain, it is fully mature when heads "cane" and turn downward.

Oberkulmer after heading (right), Comet spelt (left)

At A Glance

- Our latest maturing spelt
- Tallest spelt in our product line
- A true spelt
- Potential forage yield similar to triticale

Best Uses

Grazing, haylage, baleage, dry hay, grain

Establishment

Planting Dates: *Same as winter wheat*

Seeding Rate: 125 lbs/A

Seeding Depth: 1" - 1 1/2"

Cool Season Annual

Sample Forage Analysis of Oberkulmer Spelt
(Lancaster County, Harvested Spring 2014) - Feekes Stage 8—9

Dry Matter Yield (T/A)	% Dry Matter	% Mois-ture	Crude Protein (% DM)	Soluble Protein %CP	ADF	NDF	aND-Fom	Lignin	NDF30 % NDF	NEL (mcal/lb)	NDF Dig. Rate (Kd, % HR, Van Amburgh, iNDF)	RFV	RFQ	Milk per ton (lbs/ ton)
3.30	17.95	82.05	13.8	78.85	39.2	57.45	56.15	3.95	68.2	0.61	5.075	94.5	151	757.5

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