

SUB-TROPICAL GRASSES

Teff Grass

Annual summer grass offering multiple harvests

Eragrostis tef

Teff is a fast growing, reasonably drought tolerant variety. Grows to 70cm - 1m high before harvest. 1st growth up to 10cm and cut to allow rapid growth. Plant seeds as shallow as possible in moist soil when soil temperatures are above 16°C. Not frost tolerant. Good tolerance to heat. Good forage crop that responds quickly to nitrogen applications.

ABOUT THIS VARIETY

Teff is an adaptable annual plant with the ability to thrive in a variety of climates and soil types, gaining popularity as a summer high quality forage crop that produces high yields with low inputs. Teff is a fast growing C4 annual grass suitable for the warmer months, with potential to provide multiple cuts per season where there is available moisture and under optimal growing temperatures.

Teff's fine stemmed, leafy, soft foliage is not only very palatable but is highly nutritious, high yielding and fast growing. Once established Teff is fairly drought hardy and an ideal summer forage for grazing, silage and hay. Teff grass thrives under irrigation and responds quickly to nitrogen applications, and may lodge.

Teff is a soft forage, with 9-14% protein and an NDF of 53-56%. The hay is high in calcium, phosphorus, iron and trace elements.

Single harvest hay yields can be 3-5 t/ha. Multiple (3) cuts of hay deliver around 10 t of high quality fodder/ha (irrigated).



QUICK FACTS

-  **TYPE & PERSISTENCY**
Annual
-  **MIN RAINFALL**
450 mm+
-  **SOIL & PH**
Soil range: Loam to Heavy · pH 5+ (CaCl₂)
-  **SOWING RATE**
3-6 kg/ha General
-  **TOLERANCES**
Low pH
-  **END USE**
Grazing, Hay, Silage
-  **LIVESTOCK**
Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Equine
-  **GROWTH SEASON**
Summer-active

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ Summer active, fast establishing, high quality forage crop
- ✓ Highly palatable and nutritious
- ✓ Good heat tolerance and quick response to nitrogen
- ✓ Excellent regrowth: harvested multiple times as hay, silage or pasture
- ✓ Cost effective, with potential for high dry matter production
- ✓ Non-toxic and fairly drought hardy once established

PLANTING & GRAZING NOTES

Optimal planting is spring, with soil temperatures 16°C and rising; plant seeds as shallow as possible in moist soil. Teff seed is very small, requiring a firm seedbed to assist with seed to soil contact and seed placement. To improve seed/soil contact it is often beneficial to use a roller, or similar, behind your seeder (not advised on wet soils that may crust). Teff should emerge within 5 days. There are few labelled herbicides, so ensure that weeds are controlled in the prior crop. If there is a two week window of favourable weather after sowing, Teff will outcompete most weeds. Teff is a low input crop, with a maximum of 100 kg urea or equivalent required for high yields. If after a pulse crop, little or no additional fertiliser is required. Under optimal growing conditions Teff germinates quickly and is ready for early boot stage harvest, prior to seed head appearance, in approximately 45-55 days after seeding. Teff has a thick, dense canopy and carries a deceptive yield and should be cut around 70-95cm with an optimal cutting stubble height of 10cm. Subsequent cuts are recommended at approximately 30-35 days, subject to available moisture and fertiliser, harvesting in the leafy vegetative stage. Tolerant of heavy grazing with coarse stems remaining unless grazed early. Commence grazing when plants have reached 50-70cm; slashing after grazing will promote even regrowth. Should not be grazed below 10cm if good regrowth is expected. If grazing, wait until the plants' root system has developed, especially in sandy soils; in very sandy soils it may be an option to cut for hay in early season and graze after last cut. Delaying harvest or excess fertiliser may cause lodging, making hay harvest difficult. Horses: teff hay is generally low in sugar and starch, but levels vary, so test hay before feeding laminitis-prone horses.

STAND LIFE

Annual summer grass, terminated by frost. Can expect 4 or more grazings, or multiple hay or silage cuts, under ideal conditions.

HOW IT'S SOLD

FORM	PACK
Bare	25 kg