

Forage Factsheet – Timothy

Species Name: Timothy – *Phleum pratense*

Origin: Europe.

Longevity: 4-10 years.

Uses: Hay.

Optimal time of use: In Saskatchewan, timothy is generally used for export hay, seed production, and horse hay. Cut timothy for hay prior to the bloom stage for maximum quality.

Recovery after use: Timothy regrows slowly if cut after July.

Yield: Timothy yields approximately 4777 lbs/acre (5428 kg/ha) in the Black and Grey soil zones.

Palatability/Nutritional Value: Pre-bloom timothy has an average digestibility of 61% and crude protein of 11%. Timothy is generally higher in energy and lower in protein than other grasses. Nutritional value decreases rapidly during flowering.

Competitiveness: Timothy has poor to fair competitiveness during establishment and fair competitiveness when established.

Winter Hardiness: Timothy has good winter hardiness when adequate snow cover is present.

Drought Tolerance: Timothy has poor drought tolerance.

Erosion Control: Timothy is fair at soil erosion control in moist areas. Timothy is a short lived, bunch grass with shallow roots therefore long-term benefits to the site are minimal.

Ease of Establishment: Fair.

Suggested Mixtures: Timothy works well in mixes with legumes such as alfalfa, alsike clover, birdsfoot trefoil.

Salinity Tolerance: Timothy is not recommended for use on saline soils.

Flooding Tolerance: Timothy withstands approximately one to two weeks of spring flooding but does not withstand flooding during the growing season. Timothy thrives in moist to wet soils.

Soil Texture: Timothy is best suited to sandy through clay soils and peat. Timothy is well adapted to Black and Grey soil zones.

Acidity Tolerance: Timothy tolerates soil pH as low as 4.5 to 5.0.

Management Considerations Timothy responds well to nitrogen fertilization.

Source: Saskatchewan Forage Council, 2007.
Dryland Forage Species Adaptation CD.