



An Excellent Short-Rotation Ryegrass

Feast II is a late-maturing tetraploid ryegrass bred primarily for grazing. **Feast II** is a ryegrass that is short lived (1+ crop years), but extremely productive. It is a profuse tillering, quick-growing variety with very little re-heading. **Feast II** is less sensitive to drought and heat than many diploid ryegrass varieties. In addition, tetraploids, like **Feast II**, have four sets of chromosomes, resulting in wider leaves and larger cells. These large tetraploid cells compared to smaller diploid (two sets of chromosomes) cells have a higher ratio of cell contents versus cell walls (fiber). This means farmers should see very impressive milk and meat gains.

Notable Characteristics:

- Profuse tillering
- Very low aftermath heading
- Vigorous growth/re-growth
- Wider, more succulent leaves than diploid annual ryegrass
- Excellent palatability/digestibility
- High Energy/Feed Quality
- Very High Sugar Content

Applications:

A tetraploid ryegrass, like **Feast II**, can be a very valuable tool. **Feast II** can be easily utilized by beef, dairy and other production livestock producers. Use **Feast II** for set stocking, intensive grazing, green chop, haylage, or dry hay. Because **Feast II** Short-Rotation ryegrass establishes easily it is also well suited for pasture renovation and minor field repairs. **Feast II** Short-Rotation ryegrass is also beneficial with alfalfa as a companion crop as well as a final 1-2 year transition crop.

- **Spring Crop** (for Northern farmers): Plant with **Pasja Hybrid Brassica** for outstanding season-long production. **Feast II** typically does not produce stems until over-wintered.
- **Double Crop**: Plant **Feast II** after summer annuals to get excellent fall and spring growth.
- **Break Crop**: **Feast II** can also be used as a break crop in order to convert older pastures to different species and newer varieties. An annual crop gives a bigger window to eliminate the old undesirable forage through the use of herbicides, tillage and the competition.
- **Aging Alfalfa Stand**: Plant **Feast II** to extend stand longevity.

Seeding Rates:

New fields/pasture: 40-45 lbs./acre (*Tetraploid seed is about twice the size of diploid seed, thus requiring higher seeding rates.*)

Renovation/Overseeding existing fields/pastures:

- Pastures: 20-30 lbs./acre
- Alfalfa Hay Field: 3-5 lbs./acre.

Use with Legumes: Legumes are an excellent source of Nitrogen for grasses. **Kopu II White Clover and StarFire Red Clover** are excellent choices for long-lasting, productive clovers.

Method of Seeding:

Use of a Brillion seeder, a no-till drill or a culti-packer is ideal. Broadcast seeding in early fall, timed with moist soil, can work well, especially if the animals are allowed to "hoof" it into the existing pasture. **Feast II** can also be frost seeded. Seed to soil contact is vital to having a successful stand. Plant ¼" deep. **Feast II** establishes rapidly, but plants should be firmly rooted prior to first grazing.

Fertility:

Feast II is a high-energy grass. Protein content is highly influenced by nitrogen fertility. In addition to following soil test recommendations, apply commercial nitrogen fertilizer or manure at a rate of 50# N/a at planting time and approximately every other grazing. If machine harvesting, 50# N/acre should be applied at green-up and after each cutting.

Grazing and Harvest Tips:

Feast II is highly palatable; avoid over grazing. Graze at approximately 10-12 inches and remove animals when at 3-4 inches. When grazing **Feast II**, reduce grain levels and consider adding more fiber to the ration. If machine harvesting disc mowers and drum mowers are highly preferred. For high quality hay, harvest 1st cutting at boot stage.

