

BARENBRUG

“Great in Grass”

The *NEWEST* Winter / Spring Triticale for forage!

***FORERUNNER* Beardless Triticale**

Adaptation: The variety thrives in the mild winters of California and is winter-hardy enough to produce forage from the Pacific Northwest to the Mid-West. A *versatile* new option for the Dairy, Beef, Equine, Sheep producers and commercial hay growers.

Usage: Plant *Forerunner* from late summer to late winter/very early spring. *Forerunner* spends the cooler days of winter growing large numbers of tillers that will grow upright when spring temperatures rise and the day length increases. The crop canopy will fill rapidly with broad succulent leaves and compete well against unwanted weeds. Its greatest value may be the two cut management. *Forerunner* can be cut and ensiled prior to “boot” or heading stage and let to re-grow for a second cut for hay, silage, or grazing. In dryland conditions *Forerunner* can be cut at the appropriate time for hay allowing grazing on the stubble and re-growth.

Harvest/Maturity: For two cut usage we suggest the first cutting be at early boot or flag leaf stage for the best quality of product. The second cutting presents some option to the forage producer. The greatest tonnage/quality mix (and in dryland situations) the crop can be cut near anthesis (pollination) time for hay or silage. Letting the crop mature longer does produce more dry matter per acre but digestibility and overall quality of the forage product will decrease.

Crop Characteristics: *Forerunner* is a “beardless” or “awnletted” variety. This means *Forerunner* will display a very high percentage of heads with little or no long awns, Unlike many triticales available today, *Forerunner* is a true forage variety. It is designed and bred for grazing, hay or silage. *Forerunner* can grow to average heights of 50 to 60 inches for forage purposes. Straw strength is good. This crop will stand well with higher rates of nutrients. Stems are soft and highly palatable to livestock. Lower leaves stay green and “hang on” to provide a good leaf/stem ratio. *Forerunner* triticale appears to be resistant to current races of stem and leaf rusts. The variety displays good winter-hardiness on a par with many winter wheats grown in the west.

Triticales are noted to be very good users of Nitrogen and Phosphorous. Where environmental concerns are present *Forerunner* is an excellent choice to help tie up excess nutrients on lands where animal wastes are applied. Particularly in these situations, we strongly recommend forage analysis of the crop to guard against any possible nutritional imbalances caused by high nutrient availability.

Cultural Practices: As with any crop good seedbed and seed placement to soil is essential to success. Triticales planted in the fall generally need nutrition similar to winter wheat. However *Forerunner* reaches for higher levels of nitrogen and can fully use higher levels of N toward forage production. Seeding rates should be between 50 and 100 lbs. Per acre.

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