

Green Spirit

FEATURES

- ▶ Quick to establish
- ▶ Very aggressive growth
- ▶ Extremely high quality forage
- ▶ More forage per acre
- ▶ Extend your harvest / grazing season
- ▶ More milk
- ▶ More meat
- ▶ More income
- ▶ Lower feed cost
- ▶ Great return on investment

**IF YOU WANT MORE YIELD,
MILK OR BEEF GAINS, YOU
NEED TO TRY GREEN SPIRIT
ITALIAN RYEGRASS.**

PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

Green Spirit is very versatile and performs well in both heavy clay soils and light sandy soils. Adequate moisture and fertilizer or red clover companion will optimize production. The seeding rate is 35-40 lbs./acre when planted as a cutting/grazing crop. When planted as a cover crop, 15-20 lbs./acre will suffice. Plant with a drill or broadcast into a firm seedbed, making good seed-to-soil contact. Green Spirit can be seeded into a prepared seedbed or an existing stand. Control weeds or existing forage to help establish Green Spirit. Under normal circumstances, Green Spirit can be grazed as early as 6 weeks after planting or cut 8 weeks after planting. Graze at 6-8 inches and harvest at 12-18 inches. Green Spirit grows very dense, producing high yields of forage per inch of growth.

FALL PLANTING

Well-established Green Spirit will be more persistent so plant immediately after a summer crop. Green Spirit should be grazed or cut as soon as soon as possible and kept short, in order to thicken the crop. In the Spring, harvest as soon as possible either by grazing or cutting.

SPRING PLANTING

Green Spirit shows its greatest advantage when planted in the Spring, producing large volumes of high quality forage without any seed heads forming. Plant early in the Spring and continue grazing or harvesting, keeping Green Spirit young and palatable.

With compliments,



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Green Spirit

Italian Ryegrass Blend

The most versatile Italian Ryegrass blend producing high quality feed - FAST!!



- ▶ HIGH RFV
- ▶ LATE MATURING
- ▶ HIGH DRY MATTER PRODUCTION
- ▶ FALL OR SPRING PLANTING
- ▶ BUILDS ORGANIC MATTER
- ▶ SUPERIOR REGROWTH
- ▶ FOR CUTTING OR GRAZING

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GREEN SPIRIT ITALIAN RYEGRASS *Lolium multiflorum*

THE DIFFERENCE IN ANNUAL RYEGRASS

It is important to remember that there are two types of annual ryegrass, 'Italian' and 'Westerwolds'. Traditionally, Westerwold types have been used due to low seed cost. Although closely related, there are some very important differences. Westerwold types establish very quickly and produce a high yielding first cut. But, after this first cut, the plant wants to reproduce and aggressively produces seed heads. This trait decreases both palatability and digestibility, which negatively affects animal performance.

Italian ryegrass will NOT head-out if seeded in the spring after frost ends. This offers an advantage when top feed quality is required. Italian ryegrasses may also over-winter and produce good, early season production the following year. Green Spirit will actually exhibit biennial behavior if weather allows it to survive from one year to the next.

Recently, Italian ryegrass has been recognized as the perfect rotation crop for plow down or emergency feed. Crops that follow a stand of Italian ryegrass also show higher yields, compared to other green manure crops.

TETRAPLOID-DIPLOID BLEND

Green Spirit is a blend of both Diploid and Tetraploid Italian ryegrass. Tetraploids display more seedling vigor, re-grow quicker and are higher in sugar content. Diploids are more persistent, winter-hardy and perform better in heavy, wet conditions. Therefore, Green Spirit offers a unique balance between growth and persistence allowing up to two years of excellent production.



Italian ryegrass (left) does not go to seed in the first season unlike annual ryegrass (right).

APPLICATIONS

DOUBLE CROPPING WITH SORGHUM OR CORN

Although a relatively new concept in the U.S., Green Spirit is an excellent alternative to fall planted small grains following a sorghum or corn harvest. Green Spirit offers the following advantages:

- ▶ Higher feed value and better palatability
- ▶ Higher dry matter yields per acre
- ▶ Later maturing with less heads and easier management
- ▶ Builds more effective organic matter in the soil
- ▶ Roots are finer and denser, making it plow better in the spring

Nutritionists are reporting that the NDF fiber is more digestible than small grains, which equals healthier ruminants

Table 1. Forage quality results - Lancaster County, PA

		Protein	ADF	NDF	RFV	TDN	NEL
RYEGRASS	10" tall	33.0%	16.7	34	207	83.7	88
RYEGRASS	30" tall	18.2%	25.8	47	136	73.6	76
RYE	12" tall	22.4%	21.6	48	141	69.5	72
RYE	30" tall	17.0%	31.0	54	122	67.0	69

for cows, more available energy and greater performance.

When planted early, Green Spirit can be grazed in the fall without sacrificing spring production. Yield data from University of Maryland shows that the average dry matter yield of Italian ryegrass in the late fall and spring was 3.75 tons DM. This compares with 1.8 tons DM yield obtained from triticale.

PLANTING UNDER SILAGE CORN

A new technique is to plant Green Spirit under growing silage corn. This Italian ryegrass will germinate and establish just before the corn closes the canopy. The Italian ryegrass will sit slightly dormant under the corn until the crop is harvested. Once the crop is removed, the Italian ryegrass will grow vigorously, utilizing nutrients left behind in the soil. This grass can be harvested as forage or plowed down as a green manure the next spring, prior to planting a new crop. Either



way, the soil will benefit from the root-mass produced by Green Spirit and allows manure to be applied on the grass after the corn is harvested.

Green Spirit should be planted when the corn is 18-20" high, preferably

with the last cultivation. NEVER use cheap annual ryegrass for this practice; it will compete with the corn plants as well as produce seed heads. Only Italian ryegrass will be free from seed heads and not compete with the corn plants.

INTER SEEDING INTO FESCUE PASTURES

Green Spirit can also be used to improve production from fescue pastures. The process would be as follows.

- ▶ Graze or cut tightly prior to seeding
- ▶ Seed from end of August to end of October
- ▶ In spring apply 30-50 lbs. of Nitrogen every 4-6 weeks
- ▶ Repeat planting each fall

This dilutes the effects of harmful endophyte in KY-31, improves production from old swards and returns up to 600% on the original investment.

INTER SEEDING IN THIN ALFALFA STANDS

When alfalfa stands begin to thin, after the 3rd or 4th cutting, drill 15-30 lbs. of Green Spirit. Apply 30 lbs. of Nitrogen fertilizer. Harvest or graze into early winter and leave a 3-4" stubble. In early spring before green up, apply an additional 30-40 lbs. of Nitrogen. Graze or harvest multiple lines until corn or sorghum sudan planting.

PLANTING WITH RED CLOVER

In situations where only moderate amounts of Nitrogen are available, planting a legume with Green Spirit is recommended. By far, the legume of choice is Start red clover which establishes quickly like Italian ryegrass. Adding Start red clover to Green Spirit will enhance dry matter production, protein levels and plant health, whether it is cut for hay or haylage, or grazed.