

BIG TON XL SMOOTH BROMEGRASS

- Vigorous, long-lived sod-forming perennial grass
- Excellent drought resistance
- Improved leaf disease/seedling blight resistance
- VERY versatile, suited to grazing & haying
- Well-suited alongside alfalfa & in mixed stands

Big Ton XL smooth brome grass provides improved yield potential, disease resistance and forage quality. It is easier to plant and establish than common brome grasses. Big Ton is one of the best pasture or hay grasses in the adapted area.

XL The XL designation represents branded products that meet the Forage First® high-quality standard. XL brands contain one or more improved varieties.

Brome grass can be challenging for many livestock and hay producers. Typically, this sod-forming grass has a shortened grazing or harvest window compared to other cool season grasses. Since brome grass spreads rapidly by seeds and rhizomes, it can become increasingly dominant in pastures and paddocks. Boosting stocking rates in spring and fall, and either moderate use or rotating away from brome grass during the summer, will help year-round utilization.

SEEDING RATES (LBS/ACRE)

MONOCULTURE	15 - 20	SEEDS/LB	138,000
MIX COMPONENT	5 - 10	DEPTH (IN)	1/4 - 1/2
		EMERGENCE (DAYS)	14 - 21

CHARACTERISTICS

ESTABLISHMENT	SLOW	PALATABILITY	HIGH
PERSISTENCE	HIGH	YIELD POTENTIAL	HIGH
DROUGHT TOLERANCE	MED	GRAZING TOLERANCE	HIGH
WINTER HARDINESS	HIGH		

PLANTING TIMES

SPRING PLANTING	MAR - MAY	LIFE CYCLE	PERENNIAL
FALL PLANTING	AUG - SEP		

ADAPTATION

Smooth brome grass is best adapted to cooler climates and is hardier than tall fescue or orchardgrass. It is resistant to drought and extremes in temperature. Smooth brome is susceptible to disease in areas of high humidity. Smooth brome grows best on slightly acidic to slightly alkaline well-drained clay loam soils with high fertility but it will also grow well on lighter textured soils where adequate moisture and fertility are maintained. Smooth brome performs best in a pH range of 6.0 to 7.5. Growth is poor on soils high in soluble salts.

ESTABLISHMENT

A clean firm seedbed is needed. Due to the slow germination and establishment of smooth brome grass, spring seedings are especially preferred in the northern states. In southern areas, late summer seedings are a second option. Fall seedings should be made at least 6 weeks before a killing frost is expected. Seeding rates are typically 3 to 10 lbs/acre in mixes, and about 5 to 20 lbs/acre when seeded alone. If broadcast increase the seeding rate and cultipack after planting.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING

BEGIN (IN)	10 - 12	AVERAGE DAYS REST	20 - 30
STOP (IN)	4 - 6		

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Cut boot to mid-bloom.

Smooth brome grass requires heavy early spring and fall applications of nitrogen to maintain high yields in a pure stand. Mixes with alfalfa will require less nitrogen but the alfalfa will usually need phosphorus each year to maintain vigor. Best forage production is obtained from smooth brome when used in a planned cropping system and plowed out after 3 to 4 years. Its heavy sod makes it an excellent soil conditioning crop when included in cropping systems. In deep, well-drained soils, it will root to 4 feet. Smooth brome performs best in grassed waterways, field borders, and other conservation uses where the forage can be cut and removed while in early bloom. Do not graze the new seeding; cut the first crop for hay. In brome grass/legume pastures, allow the legume to go to bud or early-bloom stage before turning cattle in to avoid bloat hazard and manage thereafter for optimum regrowth of the legume. Pastures should not be grazed prior to smooth brome attaining a minimum height of 10 inches at the beginning of the grazing season. Grazing pressures should be adjusted throughout the season to avoid grazing this grass to less than a minimum height of 4 inches.