

SOFT-LEAVED TALL FESCUE BLEND

STF-43 Tall Fescue



STF-43 is an innovative blend of premiere soft-leaf tall fescues which produce impressive yields with high levels of digestible fiber. It is late-maturing, endophyte-free and well-suited for hay and haylage production as well as grazing. STF-43 is an excellent choice for interplanting with alfalfa.

This blend is the result of a forage analyses program which measure NDF (neutral detergent fiber) and NDFd (NDF digestibility). Barenbrug identified significant differences in the amount of fiber and its digestibility between varieties and formulated STF-43 with the highest amounts of digestible fiber. STF-43 provides energy derived from highly digestible fiber that not only increases productivity but also promotes rumen health.

- **Soft leaf, late-maturing**
- **Yields equal to or greater than alfalfa**
- **High amounts of digestible fiber**
- **High palatability**
- **Excellent persistence**
- **Winterhardy and heat/drought tolerant**
- **Deep rooted: excels in fields with deep soil profile**
- **Performs well on poorly drained soils**

USES: As a result of its high dry matter production and exceptional amount of highly digestible fiber (NDFd), STF-43 is best utilized for hay and haylage production. It is an exceptional companion for alfalfa because it is late-maturing, drought tolerant, and winter-hardy. As a companion to alfalfa, STF-43 improves stand persistence, and it is adapted to conditions in which alfalfa does not thrive, such as poorly drained soils. STF-43 also can be used for pasture because of its soft-leaved nature.

ESTABLISHMENT: STF-43 may be planted in spring or late summer. In areas with extreme summers (hot and dry), fall seeding is recommended. A well-prepared, firm seedbed is ideal. A Brillion seeder or a drill with depth control will provide good results. Plant no deeper than a ½ inch. To extend a thinning alfalfa field, no-till drill STF-43 into the alfalfa stand. When planting, cross-drill or stagger the grass with the existing alfalfa. Ideal time to no-till STF-43 into alfalfa is late summer or early fall to reduce competition.

SEEDING RATE

Full cultivation rate: 25 lbs/acre

Planted with alfalfa

- 50% STF-43, 50% alfalfa: 12 lbs/acre, STF-43, 8 lbs/acre alfalfa
- Interplanting into alfalfa via no-till: 12-20 lbs/acre

MANAGEMENT: The recommended fertilization rate for a pure stand of STF-43 is 150 units of nitrogen/acre/year. When grown with alfalfa, 75 units of nitrogen is the recommended rate. All forms of nitrogen are acceptable, but ammonium sulfate has shown to be an excellent source of nitrogen for grass. Do not use more than 30-40 units of nitrogen in any one application. Appropriate cutting height of STF-43 is important for good regrowth. After cutting, there should be leaves remaining on the grass plant. For mechanical harvest, raise the cutting bar.

