



Savvy Orchardgrass

Product Highlights

- Rapid establishment for a orchardgrass
- High autumn and winter production
- High quality and leafy in summer
- Excellent disease tolerance



Background

Savvy orchardgrass is a high yielding and very productive orchardgrass. It is characterised not only by its soft leaves, but also its potential to have very long leaves. Savvy is an indiscriminate seeder which means that under grazing many Savvy plants may not produce any seed head at all. As well as having less seed head than traditional orchardgrasses, Savvy has exceptionally low aftermath heading (the period of seed head development is very short), therefore it's relatively easy to manage, particularly with cattle.

Savvy has been bred to lift the seasonal growth over other orchardgrasses, while holding pasture quality. Savvy is particularly strong for drymatter production in late spring and summer while maintaining high growth rate potential in autumn and winter.

Savvy fits the traditional orchardgrass role in low fertility dryland pastures where it may be sown with species such as white clover, balansa clover and red clover.

Due to the high quality and highly productive nature of Savvy its response under centre pivot irrigation and nitrogen has been outstanding. In such situations Savvy has been utilised as a Savvy/legume pasture for intensive cattle grazing.

LIFESPAN	HEADING DATE	WINTER ACTIVITY	LEAF SIZE	GROWTH HABIT	SUGGESTED SOWING RATE (lbs/acre)
Perennial	Mid season	High	Fine	Erect	20 lbs/acre

Key Tips:

1. Consistent grazing in early to mid-spring will reduce seed head production in late spring
2. Key times for nitrogen use:
 - Late spring to maintain protein levels
 - Late summer to improve total autumn production
 - Mid-autumn to maximise winter production and help maintain winter pasture quality
3. To maintain summer legume content sow Savvy with tap rooted legumes. Annual, sub and balansa clovers are important for winter and spring legume content.
4. When sowing in an intensive sheep breeding system it is better to use a low sowing rate of perennial ryegrass as a cover crop for the Savvy to enable early spring set stocking, while the Savvy gets fully established.

Production Data

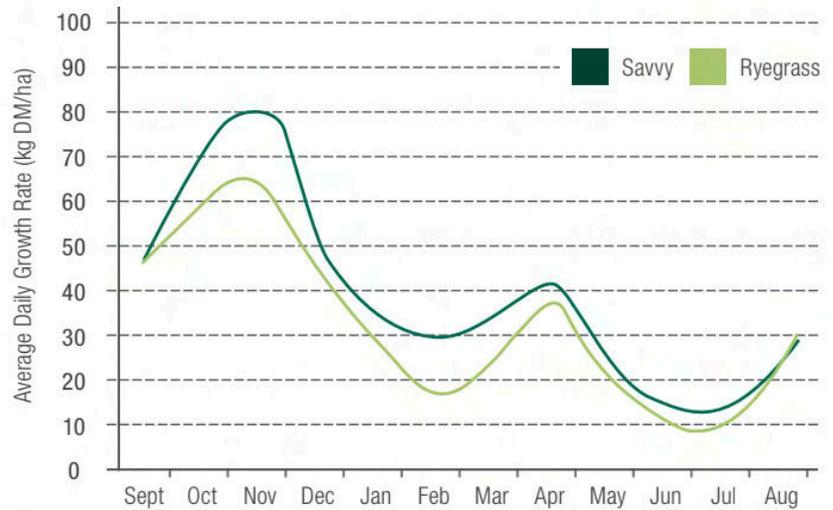
Savvy will provide important dry matter production during dry periods and in cooler months (Table 1 to right). This high yield potential is enhanced through irrigation and the application of nitrogen.

Table 1. Seasonal Orchardgrass and Total Orchardgrass Yield (kg DM/ha), mean of 3 years. (2007 - 2010 Lincoln Canterbury Trial).

CULTIVAR	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	TOTAL
Savvy	1495	4150	4303	2496	12445
Vision	1413	3602	3945	2219	11180
Ella	1231	3043	3571	1898	9742
Kara	1464	3076	3215	1912	9667
LSD 5%	251	472	542	372	1416
Trial Mean (kg DM/ha)	1391	3619	3827	2155	10991

Additional Data

Figure 1 demonstrates the seasonal growth difference between Savvy orchardgrass and perennial ryegrass in a hot, dryland environment. With these obvious seasonal advantages it is important to note that orchardgrass is much slower than ryegrass to establish and its establishment speed is highly influenced by soil temperature. Cool or reducing soil temperatures really check establishment speed of orchardgrass and it may take six months to be established enough to demonstrate the growth advantages demonstrated in Figure 1.



*Ryegrass is an average of 8 commercially available perennial ryegrass cultivars.

Figure 1. Monthly Growth Rate Differences between Savvy Orchardgrass and Perennial Ryegrass* Culverden Dryland site, mean of 2 years (Trial Sown March 2011)