



### *An Excellent Short-Rotation Ryegrass*

**Feast II** is a late-maturing tetraploid ryegrass bred primarily for grazing. **Feast II** is a ryegrass that is short lived (1+ crop years), but extremely productive. It is a profuse tillering, quick-growing variety with very little re-heading. **Feast II** is relatively less sensitive to drought and heat than many ryegrass varieties. In addition, tetraploids, like **Feast II**, have four sets of chromosomes, resulting in wider leaves and larger cells. These large tetraploid cells compared to smaller diploid (two sets of chromosomes) cells have a higher ratio of cell contents versus cell walls (fiber). This means farmers should see very impressive milk and meat gains.

#### Notable Characteristics:

- Profuse tillering
- Very low aftermath heading
- Vigorous growth/re-growth
- Wider, more succulent leaves than diploid annual ryegrass
- Excellent palatability/digestibility
- High Energy/Feed Quality
- Very High Sugar Content

#### Applications:

A tetraploid ryegrass, like **Feast II**, can be a very valuable tool. **Feast II** can be easily utilized by beef, dairy and other production livestock producers. Use **Feast II** for set stocking, intensive grazing, green chop, haylage, or dry hay. Because **Feast II** Short-Rotation ryegrass establishes easily it is also well suited for pasture renovation and minor field repairs. **Feast II** Short-Rotation ryegrass is also beneficial with alfalfa as a companion crop as well as a final 1-2 year transition crop.

- **Spring Crop** (for Northern farmers): Plant with **Pasja Hybrid Brassica** for outstanding production. **Feast II** typically does not produce stems until over-wintered.
- **Double Crop**: Plant **Feast II** after summer annuals to get excellent fall and spring growth.
- **Break Crop**: **Feast II** can also be used as a break crop in order to convert older pastures to different species and newer varieties. An annual crop gives a bigger window to eliminate the old undesirable forage through the use of herbicides, tillage and the competition.
- **Aging Alfalfa Stand**: Plant **Feast II** to extend stand longevity.

#### Method of Seeding & Seeding Rates:

Use a Brillion seeder, a no-till drill or broadcast followed by a culti-packer. **Feast II** can also be frost seeded. Seed to soil contact is vital to having a successful stand. Plant ¼" deep.

**New fields/pasture:** 40-45 lbs. /acre (*Tetraploid seed is larger than diploid seed, thus requiring higher seeding rates.*)

**Renovation/Overseeding existing fields/pastures:**

- Pastures: 20-30 lbs./acre
- Alfalfa Hay Field: 3-5 lbs. /acre.

#### Fertility:

**Feast II** is a high-energy grass. Protein content is highly influenced by nitrogen fertility. Follow soil test recommendations. If grazing **Feast II**, a general rule of thumb would be to apply commercial nitrogen fertilizer or manure at a rate of 50# N/acre at planting time/green-up and after each grazing. **Feast II** is a luxury consumer of Nitrogen and can utilize as much as 400# N/acre in intensive harvest situations. Fertilize in multiple, smaller increments. However, fertilize according to local recommendations for the yield desired in your individual situation. **Use with Legumes:** Legumes are an excellent source of Nitrogen for grasses. **Kopu II White Clover and StarFire Red Clover** are excellent choices for improved, top producing clovers.

If machine harvesting 50# N/acre or more should be applied at green-up and after each cutting.

#### Grazing and Harvest Tips:

**Feast II** establishes rapidly, but plants should be firmly rooted prior to first grazing.

**Feast II** is highly palatable; avoid over grazing. Graze at approximately 10-12 inches and remove animals when grazed down to 3-4 inches. When grazing **Feast II**, reduce grain levels and consider adding more fiber to the ration. If machine harvesting disc mowers and drum mowers are highly preferred. For high quality hay, harvest 1<sup>st</sup> cutting at boot stage.

\*As with any forage, management practices dictate the yield and quality of the forage nearly as much as the genetics of the product. With proper management practices **Feast II** should provide high yielding, high quality forage that ought to result in improved producer profitability.



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