

## Mohawk FAQ's

### **Is there a suggested protocol for planting seeded bermudagrass in fields with a history of weed problems?**

Competition from other grasses and weeds is the number one reason for bermudagrass stand failure. Taking steps upfront to reduce this competition will increase your chance of successful establishment. When planting in fields or paddocks with a history of weeds, don't get in a hurry to plant. If soil temperature is not consistently 65° F or higher at a soil depth of 4", bermudagrass will not germinate. When the seed does germinate, it will be weaker and more susceptible to competition. Prepare the seedbed well in advance to allow the first flush of crabgrass and other weed and grass competition to emerge. Use a non-selective, non-residual herbicide such as glyphosate to kill this flush of weeds before planting seeded varieties of bermuda like Mohawk. Once the bermuda becomes established, there are several herbicides that can be used to control many grass and broadleaf weed species.

### **Are there management techniques that can help insure successful seeded bermudagrass stand establishment?**

Yes. For quicker germination and more vigorous seedlings, seeded bermudagrass planting should be delayed until late spring when soil temperatures have stabilized at 65° F or higher. After the bermuda germinates and begins to tiller (develop runners), apply 30-40 lbs nitrogen/ac. Monitor broadleaf weed and summer annual grass emergence. If broadleaf weeds become troublesome, a low dose (1-1½ pts/A) of 2,4-D amine may be applied when the bermuda begins to develop runners. If broadleaf weeds become a problem before runners develop, mow the area as needed to reduce weed competition and shading of the seedling bermuda plants. Keep annual grasses and johnsongrass periodically mowed until the bermuda is well established. Do not graze or harvest for hay until the bermuda is 6-8" or more in height. If harvested for hay, leave at least a 2.0" - 2.5" of stubble height. Allow the bermuda to obtain a minimum of 3-4" of re-growth prior to a killing frost.

### **Can a field planted in seeded bermudagrass in late spring or early summer be overseeded with ryegrass in the fall?**

Pennington forage experts do not recommend overseeding newly established bermuda with winter annuals or clover the fall following spring planting. Bermuda roots and stolons need time to establish and mature prior to introducing competitive forages. In fact, if weather or other circumstances prevent the bermuda from becoming fully established during year one, it may be necessary to delay overseeding the field until the 3rd fall after planting.

### **Will Mohawk seeded-type forage bermudagrass revert back to common after only a few years of growth?**

No. Mohawk is a certified, stable variety. It is not a mixture or blend of seed containing common bermuda. As such, it remains as is; i.e. an excellent yielding, highly digestible, improved forage bermudagrass year after year.

**What management practices are necessary to keep a bermuda stand thick and productive?**

To begin, take a soil sample to determine soil pH, phosphorus and potassium levels. While bermudagrass is considered a hardy and low maintenance forage, it cannot tolerate low soil fertility over long periods of time. To cut costs, farmers often apply ample amounts of nitrogen but fail to maintain proper soil pH and adequate soil levels of phosphorus and potassium. This leads to poor yields, plant decline and thinning stands. According to forage specialists, for every ton of bermuda hay taken per acre, approximately 45 lbs. of nitrogen, 10 lbs. of phosphorus and 48 lbs. of potash per acre are removed with it. Potassium is of particular importance because it is a key component of cell wall structure giving the plant improved winter hardiness and disease resistance. Potassium also increases rhizome and stolon production which allows bermuda stands to remain thick and productive.