



**PERFORMANCE  
OF RYEGRASS  
VARIETIES  
IN ALABAMA**

**1994-1995**

AGRONOMY AND SOILS DEPARTMENTAL SERIES NO. 187  
AUGUST 1995  
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
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# PERFORMANCE OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES IN ALABAMA, 1994-95

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The Alabama Ryegrass Variety Evaluation is a continuing study of available varieties and breeding lines from private companies and state agricultural experiment stations. Experiments are planted annually in northern, central, and southern locations to evaluate the varieties and lines under the different environmental conditions of Alabama. Entries in each experiment are determined by the companies or institutes which control each variety, or line, not by experiment station personnel. The experiments are conducted by experiment station personnel and the results are presented in a fair and unbiased manner.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES AND DISCUSSION

Ryegrass entries were seeded at a 20-pound-per-acre rate in rows 7 inches apart, using plots 5 x 20 feet with four replications. Good stands were obtained at the following locations: Sand Mountain Substation, Crossville; E.V. Smith Research Center, Tallassee<sup>2</sup>; and Gulf Coast Substation, Fairhope.

The experiments were fertilized with phosphorus and potassium according to Auburn University soil test recommendations. At planting, nitrogen was applied at the rate of 50 pounds per acre, and an additional 50 pounds of N was applied per acre after each cutting. A 32- or 49-inch swath of each plot was harvested to a cutting height of 1 1/2 to 2 inches with a flail harvester each time the ryegrass reached 6-10 inches tall. A herbage sample of

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<sup>2</sup>Research conducted at the Plant Breeding Unit in Tallassee, which is a part of the E.V. Smith Research Center in Shorter.

approximately 1 pound was taken from each plot at each harvest for determining forage dry matter percentage.

In 1994, the tests were planted September 30, September 22, and October 19 at Crossville, Tallassee, and Fairhope, respectively. Wet, cloudy conditions reduced fall growth at Crossville. Adequate rainfall in October and November produced good fall growth at Tallassee. At Fairhope, rainfall was slightly below normal during winter, but did not seem to effect yield. Winter temperatures were mild for all locations allowing good forage production throughout the rest of the growing season. In 1993, the tests were planted on October 8, October 5, and October 26, at Crossville, Tallassee, and Fairhope, respectively.

Strategies to meet seasonal forage needs are an important consideration for livestock producers. Tables 1-3 provide yield data by harvest for 1994-95 at a given location, while tables 4-6 show 1, 2, and 3-year total yields by location. Seasonal and total forage dry matter yields by locations are provided in tables 7-9. The three seasonal periods are: fall- forage produced through February; early spring-March and early April production; and late spring-production after April 20. A 3-year average provides a more dependable comparison of ryegrass varieties than do single-year results.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Appreciation is expressed to Mien-Huei Tzeng, Research Data Analysis, for the data processing of this report. Also acknowledged are the contributions of J.T. Eason and M.E. Ruf, Sand Mountain Substation; E.L. Carden, N.R. McDaniel, and M.D. Pegues, Gulf Coast Substation; and S.P. Nightengale, E.V. Smith Research Center, for growing and harvesting the experiments.

*Information contained herein is available to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, or national origin.*

## SOURCES OF RYEGRASS SEED

LM 601 Florida	Barenburg USA, Tangent, Oregon
Rustmaster WVPB-AR-90-1	DLF Trifolium, Albany, Oregon
Southern Star	Forbes Seed & Grain, Junction City, Oregon
RIO	Olsen-Fennell Seeds, Inc., Salem, Oregon
Gulf (Oregon State)	Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon
Gulf (Source A)	Piedmont Fertilizer, Auburn, Alabama
Gulf (Source B)	Silverhill Farmer's Assn., Robertsdale, Alabama
Arme Tetrablend 444	Smith Seed Service, Halsey, Oregon
TAM 90 TA5 TXR93-8	Texas A & M University, College Station, TXR91- Texas
Jackson Marshall WAX ME94	The Wax Company, Inc., Amory, Mississippi
FL/OR X 1994 LR Florida 80 Surrey	University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
Grazer	USDA, Tifton, Georgia
Andrea Columbus Comet Magnum Max	Willamette Seed Company, Albany, Oregon
WVPB-AR-90-300 WVPB-AR-93-101 WVPB-AR-R-3 WVPB-AR-92-401 WVPB-AR-93-A-9 WVPB-AR-ETCO 8-88	Willamette Valley Plant Breeders, Inc. Brownsville, Oregon

TABLE 1. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES AT GULF COAST SUBSTATION,  
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, 1995

Brand-variety	Acre Yield by Harvest Date						Season Total
	2/20	1/18	2/14	3/3	3/22	4/25	
	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
WAX ME94 .....	2,745	1,585	1,432	1,544	1,463	2,393	11,162
RIO .....	2,236	1,422	1,073	1,375	1,319	2,394	9,819
Andrea .....	2,460	1,318	1,167	1,237	1,334	2,005	9,521
Jackson .....	2,214	1,383	1,280	1,227	1,219	2,150	9,473
Southern Star .....	1,877	1,394	1,201	1,156	1,296	2,285	9,209
FL/OR X 1994 LR .....	1,502	1,321	1,096	1,444	1,411	2,281	9,055
Gulf (Source A) .....	2,393	1,344	1,035	962	1,062	2,069	8,865
LM 601 .....	2,706	1,315	1,047	1,123	1,048	1,616	8,855
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	1,506	1,185	1,075	1,441	1,460	2,185	8,852
Surrey .....	1,829	1,276	1,108	1,320	1,203	2,099	8,835
Florida 80 .....	2,028	1,222	1,074	1,052	1,109	2,306	8,791
Rustmaster .....	1,661	1,397	1,108	1,385	1,287	1,902	8,740
Columbus .....	1,788	1,302	1,175	1,184	1,242	1,984	8,675
Marshall .....	2,064	1,222	889	1,221	1,379	1,894	8,669
Florida .....	2,016	1,236	1,157	1,123	965	2,162	8,659
Gulf (Source B) .....	1,640	1,403	1,070	1,174	1,174	2,143	8,604
MAX .....	1,896	1,250	1,129	1,204	1,247	1,798	8,524
Tetablend 444T3 .....	1,818	1,304	998	1,174	1,225	1,998	8,517
Magnum .....	1,912	1,325	1,164	1,081	1,147	1,879	8,508
Gulf (Oregon State) .....	1,761	1,295	1,069	1,034	1,147	2,193	8,499
TAM 90 .....	1,623	1,252	1,165	1,268	1,171	2,005	8,484
Arm .....	1,933	1,335	1,126	1,007	1,150	1,903	8,454
TX R93-8 .....	1,711	1,375	1,050	1,312	1,214	1,648	8,310
Grazer .....	1,814	1,282	1,121	1,160	979	1,610	7,966
TX R91-TA5 .....	1,301	1,132	1,106	1,267	1,249	1,797	7,852
Comet .....	2,100	1,179	1,110	1,020	974	1,415	7,798
Test Mean .....	1,944	1,310	1,116	1,211	1,211	2,004	8,796
C.V. (%) .....	23	11	12	12	8	11	8
L.S.D. (.10) .....	520	164	162	168	118	266	798

Planted: October 19, 1994.

Soil: Malbis Fine Sandy Loam.

TABLE 2. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES AT  
PLANT BREEDING UNIT, TALLASSEE, ALABAMA, 1995

Brand-variety	Acre Yield by Harvest Date						Season
	11/17	12/14	3/2	3/20	3/21	4/25	Total
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Jackson .....	1,277	622	722	590	620	1,837	5,668
Surrey .....	1,148	638	878	555	499	1,296	5,014
Gulf (Oregon State) .....	868	608	861	581	461	1,496	4,875
WAX ME94 .....	1,064	619	581	478	496	1,554	4,792
Florida 80 .....	966	663	907	420	473	1,290	4,719
Grazer .....	558	663	1,049	488	384	1,488	4,630
Marshall .....	931	578	543	409	582	1,517	4,560
Magnum .....	777	576	859	579	515	1,214	4,520
WVPB-AR-93-A-9 .....	501	539	817	468	510	1,594	4,429
WVPB-AR-90-300 .....	610	614	776	360	485	1,514	4,359
Gulf (Source B) .....	448	595	843	399	383	1,644	4,312
Arme .....	465	574	783	530	529	1,427	4,308
Southern Star .....	645	584	746	458	474	1,357	4,264
WVPB-AR-ETCO-8-88 .....	493	511	805	502	726	1,152	4,189
WVPB-AR-R-3 .....	432	588	762	530	482	1,346	4,140
TAM 90 .....	424	563	754	498	537	1,344	4,120
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	646	453	485	260	638	1,613	4,095
Gulf (Source A) .....	870	637	731	500	443	889	4,070
Andrea .....	744	547	664	427	506	1,171	4,059
Comet .....	847	635	735	401	284	1,100	4,002
WVPB-AR-92-401 .....	347	508	753	519	517	1,278	3,922
FL/OR X 1994 LR .....	460	496	563	345	540	1,512	3,916
TX R93-8 .....	545	469	580	434	539	1,328	3,895
LM 601 .....	872	565	634	358	491	970	3,890
Columbus .....	610	562	621	409	434	1,227	3,863
Florida .....	479	488	1,025	422	300	1,106	3,820
WVPB-AR-93-101 .....	287	469	558	510	429	1,486	3,739
RIO .....	326	415	617	458	511	1,385	3,712
Tetrablend 444T3 .....	422	521	578	364	467	1,313	3,665
Rustmaster .....	450	447	591	448	522	1,177	3,635
MAX .....	675	568	499	353	421	891	3,407
TX R91-TA5 .....	335	402	536	502	450	1,166	3,391
Test Mean .....	641	554	714	455	489	1,334	4,187
C.V. (%) .....	37	18	22	25	24	23	12
L.S.D. (.10) .....	276	116	186	132	138	355	612

Planted: September 22, 1994.  
Soil: Cababa Fine Sandy Loam.



TABLE 3. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES AT  
SAND MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION, CROSSVILLE, ALABAMA, 1995

Brand-variety	Acre Yield by Harvest Date						Season Total
	12/2	3/15	3/28	4/18	5/2	5/19	
	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
FL/OR X 1994 LR .....	634	535	943	1,003	641	1,171	4,927
Gulf (Source A) .....	1,026	863	815	725	380	978	4,787
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	643	389	868	1,060	646	1,107	4,713
Surrey .....	772	612	809	856	513	1,115	4,677
WAX ME94 .....	772	419	876	958	461	1,186	4,672
Jackson .....	913	380	895	923	478	1,067	4,656
Marshall .....	743	459	823	1,146	513	972	4,656
Andrea .....	880	348	710	1,137	536	949	4,560
TAM 90 .....	769	673	843	873	411	975	4,544
RIO .....	595	388	780	910	561	1,161	4,395
Gulf (Oregon State) .....	786	766	704	803	361	909	4,329
Arme .....	725	471	721	975	389	1,035	4,316
Rustmaster .....	601	504	814	861	432	1,005	4,217
Tetrablend 444T3 .....	730	352	710	827	517	1,055	4,191
Gulf (Source B) .....	646	653	777	811	331	960	4,178
Southern Star .....	702	498	650	847	454	991	4,142
Florida 80 .....	623	555	723	901	319	1,007	4,128
Grazer .....	496	800	568	1,016	270	936	4,086
Columbus .....	644	307	762	778	698	843	4,032
Magnum .....	627	464	607	949	358	928	3,933
TX R93-8 .....	555	317	850	808	373	987	3,890
LM 601 .....	910	400	468	809	554	746	3,887
Florida .....	656	630	577	838	234	855	3,790
TX R91-TA5 .....	260	554	744	799	450	974	3,781
MAX .....	638	152	595	847	612	665	3,509
Comet .....	708	261	564	759	449	654	3,395
Test Mean .....	694	490	738	893	459	970	4,246
C.V. (%) .....	23	33	16	15	17	13	9
L.S.D. (.10) .....	184	190	142	155	90	144	464

Planted: September 30, 1994.

Soil: Hartsells Fine Sandy Loam.

TABLE 4. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 1995, AND TWO- AND THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, GULF COAST SUBSTATION, FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

Brand-variety	Dry Matter/Acre		
	1995	2-Yr. Av. (1994-1995)	3-Yr. Av. (1993-1995)
	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Jackson .....	9,473	9,196	9,542
RIO .....	9,819	9,109	9,513
Rustmaster .....	8,740	9,111	9,500
Florida 80 .....	8,791	9,030	9,273
Gulf (Source B).....	8,604	8,900	9,090
Gulf (Source A).....	8,865	8,680	9,082
Surrey .....	8,835	8,395	9,053
Gulf (Oregon State).....	8,499	8,793	9,007
TAM 90 .....	8,484	8,626	8,994
Southern Star .....	9,209	9,066	-
Marshall.....	8,669	8,691	-
FL/OR X 1994 LR .....	9,055	8,598	-
Arme.....	8,454	8,524	-
WAX ME94 .....	11,162	-	-
Andrea .....	9,521	-	-
LM 601 .....	8,855	-	-
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	8,852	-	-
Columbus .....	8,675	-	-
Florida .....	8,659	-	-
MAX .....	8,524	-	-
Tetrablend 444T3 .....	8,517	-	-
Magnum .....	8,508	-	-
TX R93-8.....	8,310	-	-
Grazer .....	7,966	-	-
TX R91-TA5 .....	7,852	-	-
Comet .....	7,798	-	-

TABLE 5. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 1995, AND TWO- AND THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, PLANT BREEDING UNIT, TALLASSEE, ALABAMA

Brand-variety	Dry Matter/Acre		
	1995	2-Yr. Av. (1994-1995)	3-Yr. Av. (1993-1995)
	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Surrey .....	5,014	4,916	5,691
Marshall .....	4,560	4,883	5,649
Gulf (Source B) .....	4,312	4,232	5,480
Gulf (Oregon State) .....	4,875	4,379	5,479
Florida 80 .....	4,719	4,504	5,426
Gulf (Source A) .....	4,070	4,373	5,409
Rustmaster .....	3,635	4,087	5,374
RIO .....	3,712	4,455	5,184
WVPB-AR-90-300 .....	4,359	4,470	5,176
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	4,095	4,485	5,144
TAM 90 .....	4,120	4,133	5,117
Jackson .....	5,668	5,433	-
Southern Star. ....	4,264	4,700	-
Arme .....	4,308	4,641	-
WVPB-AR-93-101 .....	3,739	4,459	-
FL/OR X 1994 LR .....	3,916	4,365	-
WAX ME94 .....	4,792	-	-
Grazer .....	4,630	-	-
Magnum .....	4,520	-	-
WVPB-AR-93-A-9 .....	4,429	-	-
WVPB-AR-ETCO-8-88 .....	4,189	-	-
WVPB-AR-R-3 .....	4,140	-	-
Andrea .....	4,059	-	-
Comet .....	4,002	-	-
WVPB-AR-92-401 .....	3,922	-	-
TX R93-8 .....	3,895	-	-
LM 601 .....	3,890	-	-
Columbus .....	3,863	-	-
Florida .....	3,820	-	-
Tetrablend 444T3 .....	3,665	-	-
MAX .....	3,407	-	-
TX R91-TA5 .....	3,391	-	-

TABLE 6. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 1995, AND TWO- AND THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, SAND MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION, CROSSVILLE, ALABAMA

Brand-variety	Dry Matter/Acre		
	1995	2-Yr. Av. (1994-1995)	3-Yr. Av. (1993-1995)
	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Marshall .....	4,656	4,596	5,051
Surrey .....	4,677	4,268	4,763
Gulf (Source A) .....	4,787	4,282	4,555
RIO .....	4,395	4,130	4,554
TAM 90 .....	4,544	4,293	4,455
Rustmaster .....	4,217	3,966	4,320
Gulf (Oregon State) .....	4,329	4,045	4,295
Florida 80 .....	4,128	3,941	4,273
Gulf (Source B) .....	4,178	3,901	4,266
FL/OR X 1994 LR .....	4,927	4,535	-
Jackson .....	4,656	4,421	-
Southern Star .....	4,142	4,065	-
Arme .....	4,316	3,694	-
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	4,713	-	-
WAX ME94 .....	4,672	-	-
Andrea .....	4,560	-	-
Tetrablend 444T3 .....	4,191	-	-
Grazer .....	4,086	-	-
Columbus .....	4,032	-	-
Magnum .....	3,933	-	-
TX R93-8 .....	3,890	-	-
LM 601 .....	3,887	-	-
Florida .....	3,790	-	-
TX R91-TA5 .....	3,781	-	-
MAX .....	3,509	-	-
Comet .....	3,395	-	-

TABLE 7. THREE-YEAR AVERAGE SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS VARIETY FORAGE PRODUCTION, GULF COAST SUBSTATION, FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, 1993-1995

Brand-variety	Seasonal Forage Yield/Acre			
	Fall	Early Spring	Late Spring	Total
	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Jackson .....	3,739	4,333	1,470	9,542
RIO .....	3,544	4,281	1,688	9,513
Rustmaster .....	3,521	4,531	1,449	9,500
Florida 80 .....	3,607	4,172	1,494	9,273
Gulf (Source B) .....	3,849	3,855	1,386	9,090
Gulf (Source A) .....	3,741	3,901	1,441	9,082
Surrey .....	3,322	4,261	1,470	9,053
Gulf (Oregon State) .....	3,780	3,836	1,390	9,007
TAM 90 .....	3,433	4,139	1,421	8,994

TABLE 8. THREE-YEAR AVERAGE SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS VARIETY FORAGE PRODUCTION,  
PLANT BREEDING UNIT, TALLASSEE, ALABAMA, 1993-1995

Brand-variety	Seasonal Forage Yield/Acre			Total
	Fall	Early Spring	Late Spring	
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	
Surrey .....	767	2,761	2,163	5,691
Marshall.....	747	2,634	2,268	5,649
Gulf (Source B).....	704	2,616	2,160	5,480
Gulf (Oregon State).....	793	2,681	2,005	5,479
Florida 80 .....	754	2,639	2,033	5,426
Gulf (Source A).....	805	2,846	1,758	5,409
Rustmaster .....	523	2,776	2,075	5,374
RIO .....	401	2,605	2,178	5,184
WVPB-AR-90-300.....	535	2,548	2,092	5,176
WVPB-AR-90-1 .....	491	2,546	2,107	5,144
TAM 90. ....	533	2,669	1,914	5,117

TABLE 9. THREE-YEAR AVERAGE SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS VARIETY FORAGE PRODUCTION,  
SAND MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION, CROSSVILLE, ALABAMA, 1993-1995

Brand-variety	Seasonal Forage Yield/Acre			Total
	Fall	Early Spring	Late Spring	
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	
Marshall.....	384	2,720	1,947	5,051
Surrey. ....	366	2,459	1,938	4,763
Gulf (Source A).....	522	2,302	1,732	4,555
RIO .....	321	2,338	1,894	4,554
TAM 90 .....	407	2,391	1,657	4,455
Rustmaster. ....	294	2,340	1,686	4,320
Gulf (Oregon State).....	447	2,260	1,589	4,295
Florida 80 .....	335	2,217	1,721	4,273
Gulf (Source B).....	458	2,263	1,545	4,266





