

*Performance  
of Ryegrass  
Varieties in  
Alabama,  
2004-05*

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# PERFORMANCE OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES IN ALABAMA, 2004-05

K.M. Glass and E. van Santen

Agric. Program Associate and Professor, Dept. of Agronomy and Soils, Auburn University, AL 36849

## INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Ryegrass Variety Evaluation is a continuing evaluation 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 that control each variety or line, not by Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station personnel. The experiments are conducted by experiment station personnel and the results are presented in a fair and unbiased manner.

## PROCEDURE

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. Acceptable stands were obtained at the following locations: Sand Mountain Research and Extension Center, Crossville; E.V. Smith Research Center, Plant Breeding Unit, Talladega; Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, Headland and Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center, 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 per acre was applied after each cutting. A 32- or 49-inch swath of each plot was harvested to a cutting height of 1 to 2 inches with a flail harvester each time the ryegrass reached 6-10 inches tall. A herbage sample of approximately 1 pound was taken from each plot at each harvest for determining forage dry matter percentage. In 2004, the tests were planted October 7, October 21, October 14, and October 20 at Crossville, Talladega, Headland, and Fairhope, respectively. The small trial at Marion Junction could not be planted due to excessive fall moisture. In 2003, the tests were planted September 30, October 2, October 15, and October 17 at Crossville, Talladega, Headland, and Fairhope, respectively.

## DISCUSSION

Strategies to meet seasonal forage needs are an important consideration for livestock producers. Tables 1-4 provide yield data by harvest for 2004-05 at a given location, while Tables 5 and 6 show 1, 2, and 3-year total yields by location. Seasonal and total dry matter yields by locations are provided in Tables 7 and 8. 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.



**TABLE 2. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF ANNUAL RYEGRASS AT THE E.V. SMITH RESEARCH CENTER, PLANT BREEDING UNIT, TALLASSEE, 2005.**

Cultivar	Yield by harvest date					Season total †
	12/10	1/20	3/14	3/30	4/27	
	lbs per acre					
FL X2003(BD)4X LRCT	381	435	1353	710	2303	5183
Gulf (Local)	431	494	1153	807	2102	4987
Ed	360	362	1209	758	2224	4911
Flying A	280	291	1007	815	2515	4909
Marshall	305	177	794	842	2779	4898
M/FL X2004 (4X) LRCT	372	422	1137	682	2216	4829
WVPB-SS-93-AR-K4N	304	439	992	773	2239	4746
Wax ME-94	301	192	774	864	2560	4692
Striker	336	283	873	750	2435	4678
Jackson	175	271	930	879	2401	4658
Big Daddy	325	416	985	730	2193	4649
M/FL X2004 (New 4) LRCT	311	227	943	818	2284	4583
WMN 97	310	171	536	710	2836	4563
Diamond T	271	255	1064	704	2238	4532
WD- 40	271	302	873	783	2263	4492
FL/NE X 2004 (Misc 2X) LRCT	278	187	790	815	2319	4389
DN-II	343	329	669	773	2243	4357
TXR 2005-TBO	341	244	840	778	2148	4351
FL X2003 (New 2)ER	328	314	1153	630	1919	4343
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	225	193	753	710	2401	4283
Brigadier	15	205	947	745	2345	4257
Grazer	285	263	1255	487	1858	4148
Passerel Plus	323	225	596	665	2328	4137
4X	142	135	800	725	2334	4137
Prine	274	229	745	658	2191	4096
Graz-N-Gro	344	275	597	749	2104	4069
Rio	244	314	886	688	1933	4064
Tam 90	227	242	657	689	2242	4057
ME-3	40	122	446	628	2466	3702
TXR 2005-T2EM	193	127	646	626	1805	3397
Shiwasuaba	247	424	943	352	1296	3262
<b>Test Mean</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>2243</b>	<b>4399</b>
<b>C.V. (%)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LSD(0.10)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>483</b>

Planted: 10/21/2004

Soil: Cahaba Fine Sandy Loam

† only five cuts taken at this location

**TABLE 3. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF ANNUAL RYEGRASS AT THE WIREGRASS RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, HEADLAND, ALABAMA, 2005.**

Cultivar	Yield by harvest date						Season total
	12/3	1/25	3/4	3/30	4/27	†	
----- lbs per acre -----							
Striker	1648	2360	3335	4170	1299		12813
FL X2003(BD)4X LRCT	1549	2222	3128	3797	1388		12084
Prine	1290	2056	2925	3796	1470		11537
TXR 2005-TBO	1209	1929	2973	3682	1535		11328
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	1168	1874	2898	3940	1423		11303
M/FL X2004 (4X) LRCT	1153	1824	3118	3846	1299		11240
Diamond T	1018	2128	2756	4057	1227		11186
Ed	1441	1883	2819	3812	1218		11173
Big Daddy	1419	1956	2865	3561	1230		11031
Marshall	1374	1673	1998	3914	1763		10722
Gulf (Local)	1269	2157	2686	3238	1221		10572
FL X2003 (New 2)ER	1464	1697	3169	2884	1220		10434
Passerel Plus	1505	1616	2311	3624	1369		10425
WVPB-SS-93-AR-K4N	1187	1900	2703	3515	1001		10307
4X	1612	1451	2262	3657	1290		10273
FL/NE X 2004 (Misc 2X) LRCT	1014	1410	2461	4155	1223		10263
Jackson	995	1527	2423	3833	1440		10218
Graz-N-Gro	1138	1694	2509	3568	1224		10134
M/FL X2004 (New 4) LRCT	1312	1583	2610	3491	1106		10103
Wax ME-94	1303	1549	2269	3762	1204		10087
DN-II	1463	1999	2299	3032	1097		9890
ME-3	943	1626	1866	3706	1680		9821
Flying A	1022	1818	2537	3368	1041		9786
WD- 40	1258	1766	2458	3389	872		9743
Rio	1529	1691	2404	2944	1121		9689
WMN 97	1199	1488	1822	3311	1421		9241
Tam 90	1190	1514	2357	3126	1033		9220
TXR 2005-T2EM	1337	1169	2106	3352	1100		9063
Grazer	847	1409	2839	2976	978		9048
Shiwasuaba	1035	1921	2441	2425	752		8575
Brigadier	236	671	2234	3411	1156		7709
<b>Test Mean</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>2567</b>	<b>3527</b>	<b>1239</b>		<b>10291</b>
<b>C.V. (%)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>LSD(0.10)</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>226</b>		<b>792</b>

Planted: 10/14/2004

Soil: Dothan Fine Sandy Loam

† only five cuts taken at this location



**TABLE 5. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 2005, AND TWO- AND THREE-YEAR AVERAGES FOR SAND MOUNTAIN REC AND PLANT BREEDING UNIT.**

Sand Mountain Research and Ext. Ctr.				Plant Breeding Unit			
Brand-Variety	2005	2004-05	2003-05	Brand-Variety	2005	2004-05	2003-05
	2-yr. Avg	3-yr. Avg	2-yr. Avg		2-yr. Avg	3-yr. Avg	2-yr. Avg
lbs per acre							
Wax ME-94	13182	13685	11646	Ed	4911	3784	3752
Passerel Plus	12586	13336	11399	Marshall	4898	3751	3692
Ed	13267	13101	11249	Gulf (Local)	4987	3761	3689
Jackson	12607	12991	11207	Jackson	4658	3681	3679
Marshall	12484	13062	11157	Wax ME-94	4692	3687	3608
WMN 97	12141	12878	10985	WD- 40	4492	3548	3476
Brigadier	12018	12928	10941	Prine	4096	3334	3470
Gulf (Local)	11725	12657	10710	WMN 97	4563	3308	3450
Tam 90	11952	12740	10700	Brigadier	4257	3505	3446
WD- 40	11845	12627	10674	Tam 90	4057	3371	3400
Prine	11414	12022	10097	Passerel Plus	4137	3118	3222
Flying A	12235	13240	†	Flying A	4909	3955	†
Rio	12124	13066	†	FL X2003 (New 2)ER	4343	3577	†
4X	12629	12545	†	Diamond T	4532	3552	†
FL X2003 (New 2)ER	12620	12501	†	Rio	4064	3393	†
Diamond T	10835	11434	†	4X	4137	3218	†
Shiwasuaba	10210	10989	†	Shiwasuaba	3262	3018	†

*continued*

**TABLE 5. CONTINUED**

Sand Mountain Research and Ext. Ctr.				Plant Breeding Unit			
Brand-Variety	2005	2-yr. Avg		Brand-Variety	2005	2-yr. Avg	
		2004-05	2003-05			2004-05	2003-05
----- lbs per acre -----							
Grazer	13409	†	†	FL X2003(BD) 4X LRCT	5183	†	†
FL X2002 (New 3) LRCT Select	12897	†	†	M/FL X2004 (4X) LRCT	4829	†	†
DN-II	12666	†	†	WVPB-SS-93- AR-K4N	4746	†	†
TXR 2004-BAR	12595	†	†	Striker	4678	†	†
Graz-N-Gro	12524	†	†	Big Daddy	4649	†	†
FL/NE X 2004 (Misc 2X)	12485	†	†	M/FL X2004 (New 4) LRCT	4583	†	†
WVPB-SS-93- AR-K4N	12127	†	†	FL/NE X 2004 (Misc 2X) LRCT	4389	†	†
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	12049	†	†	DN-II	4357	†	†
FL X2002 (New 3) LRCT	12030	†	†	TXR 2005-TBO	4351	†	†
Big Daddy	12029	†	†	FL X 2001 (New 1) 4X LR Late	4283	†	†
Maximus	11819	†	†	Grazer	4148	†	†
M/FL X2004 (New 4) LRCT	11817	†	†	Graz-N-Gro	4069	†	†
TXR 2005- T2EM	11616	†	†	3LWD8181-2	3603	†	†
Striker	11543	†	†	TXR 2005-T2EM	3397	†	†
Ribeye	11306	†	†				
Jumbo	11253	†	†				
3LWD8181-2	11181	†	†				
M/FL X2004 (4X) LRCT	11057	†	†				
FL X2003(BD) 4X LRCT	10515	†	†				
TXR 2005-TBO	10432	†	†				

**TABLE 6. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 2005, AND TWO- AND THREE-YEAR AVERAGES FOR WIREGRASS REC AND GULF COAST REC**

Wiregrass Research and Ext. Ctr.				Gulf Coast Research and Ext. Ctr.			
Brand-Variety	2005	2004-05	2003-05	Brand-Variety	2005	2004-05	2003-05
	2-yr. Avg	3-yr. Avg	2-yr. Avg		2-yr. Avg	3-yr. Avg	
lbs per acre							
Prine	11537	9824	8363	Prine	6402	6251	6925
Gulf (Local)	10572	8904	7896	Marshall	6653	6514	6824
Ed	11173	9215	7830	Wax ME-94	6772	6550	6777
Wax ME-94	10087	8868	7578	Jumbo	6341	6204	6738
Marshall	10722	8894	7564	Jackson	6336	6211	6717
Passerel Plus	10425	8540	7323	Tam 90	6371	6102	6689
WD- 40	9743	8417	7317	Gulf (Local)	6261	6044	6600
Jackson	10218	8468	7315	Ed	5869	6076	6586
Tam 90	9220	7978	7166	WD- 40	5827	5903	6508
WMN 97	9241	7722	6769	Passerel Plus	6167	6087	6505
Brigadier	7709	7339	6690	WMN 97	5504	5825	6470
Diamond T	11186	9739	†	Brigadier	5029	5794	6336
4X	10273	9086	†	Ribeye	5697	5803	6330
FL X2003 (New 2)ER	10434	8763	†	Diamond T	5986	6181	†
Flying A	9786	8648	†	Flying A	6593	6181	†
Rio	9689	7997	†	FL X2002 (New 3) LRCT	6116	6131	†
Shiwasuaba	8575	7872	†	Rio	6363	5988	†

*continued*

**TABLE 6. CONTINUED**

Wiregrass Research and Ext. Ctr.				Gulf Coast Research and Ext. Ctr.			
Brand-Variety	2005	2-yr. Avg	3-yr. Avg	Brand-Variety	2005	2-yr. Avg	3-yr. Avg
		2004-05	2003-05			2004-05	2003-05
----- lbs per acre -----							
Striker	12813	†	†	4X	5683	5897	†
FL X2003(BD)4X	12084	†	†	FL X2003 (New 2)ER	5795	5846	†
TXR 2005-TBO	11328	†	†	Shiwasuaba	4492	5597	†
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	11303	†	†	3LWD8181-2	7040	†	†
M/FL X2004 (4X) LRCT	11240	†	†	M/FL X2004 (4X) LRCT	6956	†	†
Big Daddy	11031	†	†	Big Daddy	6903	†	†
WVPB-SS-93-AR-K4N	10307	†	†	Maximus	6834	†	†
FL/NE X 2004 (L)	10263	†	†	Striker	6030	†	†
Graz-N-Gro	10134	†	†	FL/NE X 2004 (M)	6006	†	†
M/FL X2004 (N)	10103	†	†	FL X2003(BD)4X	5990	†	†
DN-II	9890	†	†	TXR 2005-T2EM	5768	†	†
3LWD8181-2	9821	†	†	TXR 2005-TBO	5628	†	†
TXR 2005-T2EM	9063	†	†	FL X 2001(New 1)	5620	†	†
Grazer	9048			WVPB-SS-93-AR	5606	†	†
				DN-II	5569	†	†
				M/FL X2004 (New)	5544	†	†
				Graz-N-Gro	5472	†	†
				TXR 2004-BAR	5100	†	†
				FL X2002 (New 3)	4904	†	†
				Grazer	4636	†	†

**TABLE 7. SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS PRODUCTION AT SAND MOUNTAIN REC AND PLANT BREEDING UNIT BASED ON THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, 2003-2005.**

Brand-Variety	Fall	Early spring	Late spring	3-yr avg
	----- % -----			-- lbs per acre --
<b>Sand Mountain Research and Ext. Ctr.</b>				
Wax ME-94	25	42	34	11646
Passerel Plus	26	42	32	11399
Ed	24	41	35	11249
Jackson	26	43	32	11207
Marshall	24	44	32	11157
WMN 97	24	42	34	10985
Brigadier	21	43	36	10941
Gulf (Local)	27	40	33	10710
Tam 90	26	40	34	10700
WD- 40	27	40	33	10674
Prine	26	41	33	10097
<b>Plant Breeding Unit</b>				
Ed	17	50	33	3752
Marshall	15	46	40	3692
Gulf (Local)	16	53	31	3689
Jackson	13	51	37	3679
Wax ME-94	15	48	37	3608
WD- 40	15	50	36	3476
Prine	15	48	37	3470
WMN 97	12	45	43	3450
Brigadier	12	51	36	3446
Tam 90	16	49	35	3400
Passerel Plus	15	45	40	3222

**TABLE 8. SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS PRODUCTION AT WIREGRASS REC AND GULF COAST REC BASED ON THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, 2003-2005.**

Brand-Variety	Fall	Early spring	Late spring	3-yr avg
	% -----			-- lbs per acre --
<b>Wiregrass Research and Ext. Ctr.</b>				
Prine	30	53	17	8363
Gulf (Local)	33	52	15	7896
Ed	31	53	15	7830
Wax ME-94	29	55	16	7578
Marshall	28	53	19	7564
Passerel Plus	28	53	19	7323
WD- 40	32	54	14	7317
Jackson	27	56	17	7315
Tam 90	31	53	16	7166
WMN 97	25	55	20	6769
Brigadier	24	58	18	6690
<b>Gulf Coast Research and Ext. Ctr.</b>				
Prine	38	37	25	6925
Marshall	35	41	24	6824
Wax ME-94	38	41	21	6777
Jumbo	36	39	25	6738
Jackson	37	40	23	6717
Tam 90	40	37	23	6689
Gulf (Local)	40	38	22	6600
Ed	39	38	23	6586
WD- 40	40	37	23	6508
Passerel Plus	38	36	25	6505
WMN 97	37	38	26	6470
Brigadier	35	42	23	6336
Ribeye	38	38	23	6330

## SOURCES OF RYEGRASS SEED

3LWD8181-2

**Barenbrug USA, Tangent, Oregon**

Jumbo

Ribeye

Maximus

FL X2002 (New 3) LRCT

FL X2002 (New 3) LRCT SELECT

TX2004-BAR

Brigadier

**East Texas Seed Co., Tyler, Texas**

Prine

Diamond T

**OreGro Seeds, Inc., Shedd, Oregon**

4X

Flying A

WD-40

DN-II

Gulf (Local Source)

**Piedmont Fertilizer Co.,  
Opelika, Alabama**

Passerel Plus

**Pennington Seed, Inc., Lebanon, Oregon**

Shiwasuaba

Rio

**ProSeeds Marketing, Inc.,  
Jefferson, Oregon**

Graze-N-Gro

**Seed Research of Oregon, Corvallis, Oregon**

Striker

Big Daddy

**Smith Seed Service, Halsey, Oregon**

Ed

WVPB-SS-93-AR-KYN

FLX2001(New1) 4XRLLate

FLX2003(BD)4XLRCT

TAM 90

**Texas A & M University,  
College Station, Texas**

TXR 2005-T2EM

TXR2005-TBO

Jackson

**The Wax Company, LLC,  
Amory, Mississippi**

Marshall

WAX ME-94

WMN 97

M/FL X2004(New 4)LRCT

**University of Florida,  
Gainesville, Florida**

FL/NE X2004(Misc 2x)LRCT

FL X2003 (New2)ER

M/FL X2004(4x)LRCT

Grazer

**Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA**