

*Performance  
of Ryegrass  
Varieties in  
Alabama,  
2002-03*

*Agronomy and Soils Departmental Series No. 252  
Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station  
John Jensen, Interim Director  
Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama,  
August 2003*

*Printed in cooperation with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
(Alabama A&M University and Auburn University)*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Appreciation is expressed to the following supervisory personnel of the outlying units whose support is gratefully acknowledged:

**Northern Alabama**

Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center, Belle Mina .....B.E. Norris, Jr., Supt.  
 H.E. Burgess, Assoc. Supt.

Sand Mountain Research and Extension Center, Crossville.....R.A. Dawkins, Supt.

**Central Alabama**

Black Belt Research and Extension Center, Marion Junction .....J.L. Holliman, Supt.

Prattville Experiment Field.....D.P. Moore, Supt.

E.V. Smith Research Center, Plant Breeding Unit, Tallassee .....S.P. Nightengale, Supt.

**Southern Alabama**

Brewton Experiment Field .....J.R. Akridge, Supt.

Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center, Fairhope.....N.R. McDaniel, Supt.  
 M.D. Pegues, Assoc. Supt.

Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, Headland.....L.W. Wells, Supt.  
 B.E. Gamble, Asst. Supt.

# PERFORMANCE OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES IN ALABAMA, 2002-03

**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, Tallassee; 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 2002, the tests were planted October 23, October 10, October 17, and October 22 at Crossville, Tallassee, Headland and Fairhope, respectively. In 2001, the tests were planted September 27, October 18, October 17, and October 31 at Crossville, Tallassee, Headland and Fairhope, respectively. All planting dates were delayed due to lack of soil moisture. Cuttings were limited at Fairhope due to drought conditions.

## DISCUSSION

Strategies to meet seasonal forage needs are an important consideration for livestock producers. Tables 1-4 provide yield data by harvest for 2002-03 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 9 and 10. 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 1. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF ANNUAL RYEGRASS AT THE SAND MOUNTAIN RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, CROSSVILLE, ALABAMA, 2003.**

Cultivar	Yield by harvest date						Season total
	3/12	3/26	4/12	5/1	5/21	6/10	
	----- lbs per acre -----						
Jackson	701	1668	1272	1513	886	1599	7639
Passerel Plus	526	1437	1508	1303	1072	1778	7623
Wax ME-94	603	1508	1295	1392	1086	1686	7569
Ed	573	1376	1314	1346	1080	1855	7544
Marshall	533	1407	1439	1455	1191	1425	7450
NCD Enhancer	494	1169	1423	1415	1226	1627	7353
Ribeye	456	1454	1306	1410	1009	1662	7296
WMN 97	250	1160	1507	1490	1075	1747	7229
SCH-5	638	1431	1369	1338	900	1543	7221
FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	446	1310	1201	1290	1237	1645	7129
FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	367	1249	1414	1249	1260	1517	7056
Brigadier	398	1418	1244	1519	1094	1293	6966
TXR 2001-11	496	1116	1522	1295	958	1571	6957
FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	452	1282	1312	1228	1064	1602	6939
Gulf (Source A)	752	1290	973	1218	965	1616	6814
WD- 40	434	1205	1307	1209	1127	1489	6770
Jumbo	458	1315	1146	1228	1082	1508	6737
Ore-Tarx	467	1047	1594	1009	944	1624	6685
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	454	1200	1124	1169	1043	1682	6673
Tam 90	545	1377	1184	1263	901	1351	6622
Joe-1	816	1140	1071	1201	982	1365	6574
BB-Mex-I	565	1166	1262	1145	914	1427	6480
Prine	429	1107	1179	1197	1005	1329	6247
Big Daddy	361	1220	1190	1048	887	1257	5962
<b>Test Mean</b>	509	1294	1298	1289	1041	1550	6981
<b>C.V. (%)</b>	42	21	21	14	21	18	10
<b>LSD(0.10)</b>	244	280	294	170	284	339	1016

Planted: October 23, 2002

Soil: Hartsells Fine Sandy Loam

**TABLE 2. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF ANNUAL RYEGRASS AT THE E.V. SMITH RESEARCH CENTER, PLANT BREEDING UNIT, TALLASSEE, 2003.**

Cultivar	Yield by harvest date						Season total
	3/10	3/27	4/16	5/5	†	†	
	----- lbs per acre -----						
Prine	893	790	1128	930	----	----	3741
WMN 97	831	979	1141	784	----	----	3735
TXR 2001-11	849	994	1100	766	----	----	3708
Ed	1045	822	1036	784	----	----	3688
Jackson	821	976	1055	825	----	----	3676
Wax ME-94	933	896	1083	717	----	----	3629
Ore-Tarx	889	850	1067	818	----	----	3624
SCH-5	803	1024	990	791	----	----	3608
Marshall	818	856	1114	785	----	----	3574
Gulf (Source A)	1189	748	1039	568	----	----	3544
FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	750	838	1117	805	----	----	3510
Jumbo	765	807	1124	785	----	----	3480
Tam 90	987	808	1036	629	----	----	3460
Joe-1	801	863	952	826	----	----	3442
Passerel Plus	691	818	1089	833	----	----	3431
Ribeye	786	920	969	688	----	----	3363
WD- 40	885	748	985	716	----	----	3334
Brigadier	892	795	985	655	----	----	3327
FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	780	840	1009	676	----	----	3306
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	857	791	899	747	----	----	3294
BB-Mex-I	638	861	995	796	----	----	3290
FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	683	841	1009	718	----	----	3251
Big Daddy	820	785	974	656	----	----	3235
NCD Enhancer	518	850	892	772	----	----	3031
<b>Test Mean</b>	830	854	1033	753	----	----	3470
<b>C.V. (%)</b>	29	15	16	19	----	----	12
<b>LSD(0.10)</b>	305	118	162	137	----	----	490

Planted: October 10, 2002

Soil type: Cahaba Fine Sandy Loam

† only four cuts taken at this location

**TABLE 3. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF ANNUAL RYEGRASS AT THE WIREGRASS RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, HEADLAND, ALABAMA, 2003.**

Cultivar	Yield by harvest date						Season total
	1/29	2/25	3/22	4/29	†	†	
	----- lbs per acre -----						
Gulf (Source A)	626	1693	2228	1332	----	----	5879
Big Daddy	408	1361	1941	1978	----	----	5688
Tam 90	276	1363	2484	1418	----	----	5542
Prine	291	1364	2196	1589	----	----	5440
Brigadier	299	1546	2191	1357	----	----	5393
Ore-Tarx	282	1272	2120	1584	----	----	5258
BB-Mex-I	329	1292	2029	1582	----	----	5232
SCH-5	272	1296	2273	1374	----	----	5214
TXR 2001-11	207	1265	2229	1456	----	----	5157
WD- 40	209	1305	2122	1481	----	----	5117
Ed	327	1364	2116	1252	----	----	5060
Jackson	348	1380	2035	1246	----	----	5010
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	316	1286	1851	1555	----	----	5009
FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	242	1217	2225	1317	----	----	5001
Wax ME-94	275	1273	2390	1059	----	----	4997
Ribeye	207	1343	2172	1253	----	----	4976
Marshall	321	1099	2254	1230	----	----	4904
FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	282	1410	2172	1032	----	----	4896
Passerel Plus	246	1181	2064	1398	----	----	4888
WMN 97	179	939	2281	1464	----	----	4862
Jumbo	261	1226	1972	1301	----	----	4760
FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	286	1311	1943	1153	----	----	4694
Joe-1	312	1292	1867	1013	----	----	4484
NCD Enhancer	341	969	1457	948	----	----	3715
<b>Test Mean</b>	298	1294	2109	1349	----	----	5049
<b>C.V. (%)</b>	24	11	13	17	----	----	9
<b>LSD(0.10)</b>	71	149	268	316	----	----	560

Planted: October 17, 2002

Soil type: Dothan Fine Sandy Loam

† only four cuts taken at this location

**TABLE 4. SEASONAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF ANNUAL RYEGRASS AT THE GULF COAST RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, 2003.**

Cultivar	Yield by harvest date						Season total
	1/8	2/20	3/12	4/4	5/9	†	
	----- lbs per acre -----						
BB-Mex-I	1906	1558	1078	1948	1992	----	8482
Prine	1717	1540	1018	1932	2064	----	8272
FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	1119	1360	1655	2016	1981	----	8131
Tam 90	1643	1566	901	1938	1814	----	7862
Jumbo	1617	1440	931	1776	2043	----	7807
NCD Enhancer	1893	1466	971	1811	1619	----	7761
WMN 97	1661	1255	880	1955	2008	----	7759
Jackson	1540	1472	972	1913	1831	----	7728
WD- 40	1595	1542	938	1863	1782	----	7719
Gulf (Source A)	1684	1503	1001	1819	1704	----	7711
Big Daddy	1671	1315	965	1907	1793	----	7650
Joe-1	2088	1255	975	1623	1673	----	7614
Ed	1804	1416	962	1591	1834	----	7607
SCH-5	1540	1440	946	1877	1770	----	7573
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	1472	1318	899	1894	1949	----	7531
Ore-Tarx	1424	1495	941	1798	1854	----	7512
Marshall	1451	1203	943	1893	1955	----	7445
Brigadier	1570	1530	941	1699	1680	----	7419
FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	1346	1393	965	1903	1794	----	7400
Ribeye	1614	1388	894	1745	1745	----	7386
Passerel Plus	1438	1225	891	1794	1993	----	7340
FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	1497	1183	893	1752	1962	----	7287
Wax ME-94	1623	1242	953	1737	1678	----	7232
TXR 2001-11	1092	1387	855	1719	1962	----	7015
<b>Test Mean</b>	1584	1396	974	1829	1853	----	7635
<b>C.V. (%)</b>	20	15	34	11	8	----	10
<b>LSD(0.10)</b>	332	197	300	185	144	----	743

Planted: October 22, 2002

Soil type: Malbis Fine Sandy Loam

† only five cuts taken at this location

**TABLE 5. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 2003, 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	2-yr. Avg 3-yr. Avg			Brand-Variety	2-yr. Avg 3-yr. Avg		
	2003	2002-03	2001-03		2003	2002-03	2001-03
----- lbs per acre -----				----- lbs per acre -----			
Brigadier	6966	6834	5807	Jackson	3676	4623	5934
Wax ME-94	7569	6909	5793	Brigadier	3327	4326	5803
Jackson	7639	6645	5767	WMN 97	3735	4719	5542
Ribeye	7296	6248	5532	Marshall	3574	4579	5449
Marshall	7349	6383	5469	Big Daddy	3235	4272	5401
Passerel Plus	7523	6436	5345	Prine	3741	4732	5319
WMN 97	7199	6046	5082	Tam 90	3460	4298	5285
Prine	6247	5838	5068	Jumbo	3480	4721	5247
Tam 90	6622	6008	5049	Passerel Plus	3431	4429	5168
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	6673	5924	5010	FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	3294	4527	5156
Jumbo	6737	5898	4957	Wax ME-94	3449	4537	5110
Big Daddy	5962	5322	4770	Ribeye	3363	4388	5034
SCH-5	7221	6368	†	SCH-5	3608	4751	†
TXR 2001-11	6957	5949	†	TXR 2001-11	3708	4455	†
BB-Mex-I	6480	5645	†	BB-Mex-I	3290	4282	†
Ed	7544	†	†	Ed	3688	†	†
NCD Enhancer	7353	†	†	Ore-Tarx	3624	†	†
FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	7129	†	†	Gulf (Source A)	3544	†	†
FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	7056	†	†	FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	3510	†	†
FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	6939	†	†	Joe-1	3442	†	†
Gulf (Source A)	6814	†	†	WD- 40	3334	†	†
WD- 40	6770	†	†	FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	3306	†	†
Ore-Tarx	6685	†	†	FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	3251	†	†
Joe-1	6574	†	†	NCD Enhancer	3031	†	†

**TABLE 6. TOTAL DRY MATTER YIELD OF RYEGRASS VARIETIES, 2003, 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	2003	2-yr. Avg 2002-03	3-yr. Avg 2001-03	Brand-Variety	2003	2-yr. Avg 2002-03	3-yr. Avg 2001-03
	----- lbs per acre -----				----- lbs per acre -----		
Big Daddy	5688	7015	7266	Marshall	7445	7190	7351
Prine	5440	6716	7055	Jackson	7728	6552	6863
Wax ME-94	4997	6282	6991	WMN 97	7759	6801	6814
Brigadier	5393	6452	6946	Passerel Plus	7340	6573	6804
Tam 90	5542	6699	6880	Big Daddy	7650	6781	6789
Passerel Plus	4888	6401	6870	Jumbo	7807	6873	6760
Jackson	5010	6288	6827	Ribeye	7386	6597	6719
Marshall	4904	6353	6758	Tam 90	7862	6764	6711
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	5009	6325	6746	Wax ME-94	7232	6689	6573
Ribeye	4976	6526	6636	Brigadier	7419	6521	6540
Jumbo	4760	6113	6635	Prine	8272	6686	6535
WMN 97	4862	6143	6418	FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	7531	6385	6439
BB-Mex-I	5232	6632	†	SCH-5	7573	6820	†
SCH-5	5214	6419	†	BB-Mex-I	8482	6574	†
TXR 2001-11	5157	6327	†	TXR 2001-11	7015	6417	†
Gulf (Source A)	5879	†	†	FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	8131	†	†
Ore-Tarx	5258	†	†	NCD Enhancer	7761	†	†
WD- 40	5117	†	†	WD- 40	7719	†	†
Ed	5060	†	†	Gulf (Source A)	7711	†	†
FL/NE X 2002 (New 2) LRCT	5001	†	†	Joe-1	7614	†	†
FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	4896	†	†	Ed	7607	†	†
FL X2002 (DRU) LRCT	4694	†	†	Ore-Tarx	7512	†	†
Joe-1	4484	†	†	FL X2002 (LA3) LRCT	7400	†	†
NCD Enhancer	3715	†	†	FL/NE X 2002	7287	†	†

**TABLE 7. SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS PRODUCTION AT SAND MOUNTAIN REC AND PLANT BREEDING UNIT BASED ON THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, 2001-2003.**

Brand-Variety	Fall	Early spring	Late spring	3-yr avg
	----- % of total annual yield -----			- lbs per acre -
<b>Sand Mountain Research and Ext. Ctr.</b>				
Jackson	13.8	47.3	48.1	4796
Ribeye	17.7	44.6	49.5	4781
Wax ME-94	10.9	44.5	51.9	4628
Marshall	13.9	42.8	52.6	4625
Brigadier	16.9	43.7	50.7	4572
Passerel Plus	12.7	42.5	53.3	4557
WMN 97	11.1	40.0	56.3	4382
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	13.4	41.1	54.4	4258
Prine	11.5	44.5	51.7	4202
Tam 90	14.0	46.7	48.6	4179
Jumbo	11.6	42.7	53.4	4061
Big Daddy	12.6	46.2	49.6	4060
<b>Plant Breeding Unit</b>				
Jackson	28.5	50.1	30.9	5395
Brigadier	33.9	49.6	27.7	5312
WMN 97	22.1	51.2	34.1	5046
Marshall	24.9	50.3	33.1	5002
Big Daddy	27.2	49.9	31.9	4918
Tam 90	25.8	53.1	29.7	4841
Prine	19.4	51.3	35.7	4786
Wax ME-94	23.1	51.1	33.5	4709
Passerel Plus	26.6	48.6	33.7	4665
Jumbo	22.5	50.2	34.8	4635
Ribeye	22.3	54.4	30.8	4627
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	22.6	51.9	33.0	4605

**TABLE 8. SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RYEGRASS PRODUCTION AT WIREGRASS REC AND GULF COAST REC BASED ON THREE-YEAR AVERAGES, 2001-2003.**

Brand-Variety	Fall	Early spring	Late spring	3-yr avg
	----- % of total annual yield -----			- lbs per acre -
<b>Wiregrass Research and Ext. Ctr.</b>				
Big Daddy	43.2	46.3	15.7	7266
Prine	43.3	47.6	13.6	7055
Brigadier	42.9	49.5	11.4	6946
Tam 90	42.9	48.9	12.3	6880
Passerel Plus	41.5	50.3	12.3	6870
Jackson	42.4	50.6	10.5	6827
Marshall	40.2	52.4	11.1	6758
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	41.7	49.1	13.8	6746
Ribeye	45.9	46.6	11.3	6636
Jumbo	40.5	51.5	11.9	6635
WMN 97	37.3	53.7	13.6	6418
<b>Gulf Coast Research and Ext. Ctr.</b>				
Marshall	57.5	28.8	20.4	7351
Jackson	60.7	25.9	20.2	6863
WMN 97	54.3	29.4	24.5	6814
Passerel Plus	56.8	26.6	25.0	6804
Big Daddy	59.5	26.1	21.7	6789
Jumbo	56.3	27.0	25.1	6760
Ribeye	62.8	24.3	19.4	6719
Tam 90	60.6	25.1	21.4	6711
Wax ME-94	57.8	27.8	21.7	6573
Brigadier	59.9	26.0	21.1	6539
Prine	56.5	26.8	25.0	6535
FL X 2001(New 1) 4X LR Late	55.3	27.5	25.9	6439

## SOURCES OF RYEGRASS SEED

BB-Mex-1 Jumbo Ribeye	<b>Barenbrug USA, Tangent, Oregon</b>
Brigadier Prine	<b>East Texas Seed Co., Tyler, Texas</b>
Joe-1 Ore-Trax SCH-5 WD-40	<b>OreGro Seeds, Inc., Shedd, Oregon</b>
Gulf (Local Source)	<b>Piedmont Fertilizer Co., Opelika, Alabama</b>
FL X2001(New 1)4XLR Late Passerel Plus	<b>Pennington Seed, Inc., Lebanon, Oregon</b>
Big Daddy Ed	<b>Smith Seed Service, Halsey, Oregon</b>
TAM 90 TXR 2001-11	<b>Texas A &amp; M University, College Station, Texas</b>
Jackson Marshall WAX ME-94 WMN 97	<b>The Wax Company, LLC, Amory, Mississippi</b>
FL/NE X2002(New 2) LRCT FL X2002(LA3) LRCT FL X2002(DRU)LRCT	<b>University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida</b>
NCD Enhancer	<b>ARC-Range and Forage Institute, Hilton, South Africa</b>