

PENSACOLA BAHIAGRASS

DEVELOPED FOR HAY PRODUCTION AND A LONG GRAZING SEASON

Bahiagrass is a warm-season perennial grass. Pensacola is the most widely grown variety in the US. It has longer and narrower leaves, taller stalks, and is earlier maturing and more winter hardy. Growth begins in early spring and continues until midsummer when the seedheads mature. Late summer growth is slow and low quality.

Pensacola is fairly resistant to ergot, a smut disease affecting the seedheads of some grasses and causing health problems in cattle. Use Pensacola on less fertile soils and in pastures that will not be well managed. Once Pensacola is established, it can be maintained more easily than most pasture grasses.

Bahiagrass is a deep-rooted and sod-forming grass. It is adapted to a wide range of soil conditions and has low fertility needs. It produces forage earlier in the spring and later in the fall than many pasture grasses. It makes a good break crop and transition crop, good for setting up pasture that was previously in agronomic crops.

Planting and Fertilization

Plant in early spring on upland soils and late spring on lower, moist soil. It can also be planted in late summer, though there may be more problems with dry weather and weed competition.

It is best to apply 35-50 lbs N after the seedlings emerge and have started to grow. With an early planting, a second application in early summer may be necessary to achieve good ground cover—about 50-75 lbs/A.

A total annual N application of 100-200 lbs/A will be needed, generally divided into at least 2 applications. Higher N rates can be used, but only in very intensive grazing or hay production systems.

P and K needs will depend on soil tests. All the phosphorus can be applied at once during the year, while K application should be split into at least a spring and fall application, as bahiagrass is a luxury consumer.



At A Glance

Key Features

- Warm season perennial grass
- Sod-forming
- Tall, early maturing, and winter-hardy variety
- Well adapted to many soil conditions
- Good drought tolerance
- Low-moderate fertility needs
- Disease and pest tolerant
- Long grazing season
- Good erosion control and wildlife habitat, as well as break crop in agronomic crops

Best Uses

Baleage, haylage, dry hay, rotational grazing

Establishment

Use the small box of the drill

Seeding Rate: 8-10 lbs/A drilled; or 12-15 lbs/A broadcast

Seeding Depth: No deeper than 1/4"

Southeast
AGRISEEDS LLC



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In Rotation

Pensacola helps break pest and disease cycles in an agronomic crop rotation. Keeping the stand for at least two years will reduce early and late leaf spot, decreased southern blight, stem rot, and white mold in peanuts and cotton, fewer thrips, less tomato spotted wilt virus in peanuts and tobacco, and reduced peanut and soybean root-knot nematode and soybean cyst nematode in following crops. It is best to follow Pensacola with peanuts or soybeans.

To extend the grazing season further and increase forage quality, Pensacola can be overseeded with winter annual grasses (small grains) and legumes. Prior to overseeding, the stand will need to be mowed or grazed as short as possible in the fall, then lightly disked.

Most serious insect threats will be fall armyworms and mole crickets.

Warm Season Perennial



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