

Species Selection

Considerations

- Amount of irrigation/precipitation
- Salinity
- Water table or standing water
- Palatability
- Single species vs. mixes vs. legumes



Meadow Brome

- Sod forming
- Excellent palatability
- Strong seedlings
- Irrigated or non-irrigated with 15 inches or more of annual precipitation



Smooth Brome

- Sod forming
- Excellent palatability
- Weak seedlings
- Vigorous spreader
- Doesn't recover from grazing as well as meadow brome
- Adapted to irrigated conditions



Orchardgrass

- Bunch grass
- Highly palatable
- High producing
- Shade tolerant
- Irrigated or non-irrigated with 16 inches or more annual precipitation




Perennial Ryegrass


- Relatively short-lived bunch grass
- Excellent palatability
- Establishes rapidly
- Low winter hardiness
- Requires high fertility
- Adapted to irrigated conditions




Timothy




- Bunch grass
- Traditional feed for horses
- Moderate palatability
- Moderate to high production on wet meadows
- It is poor for grazing during moist conditions




Tall Fescue




- Bunch grass
- Low palatability
- High producing
- Tolerant of wet and salty conditions
- Plant certified endophyte-free seed to avoid possible toxic effects




Creeping Meadow Foxtail




- Sod forming grass
- Low palatability
- High producing
- Tolerant of wet and moderately salty conditions




Intermediate Wheatgrass




- Mildly sod forming
- Highly palatable
- Excellent on non-irrigated sites with 14 or more inches of annual precipitation



Crested Wheatgrass



- Bunch to mildly sod forming
- Highly palatable
- Excellent on non-irrigated sites with 10 or more inches of annual precipitation
- Best production is in the spring
- Adapted to sandy soils
- Excellent seedling vigor, easy to establish



Russian Wildrye





- Bunchgrass
- Moderately palatable
- Excellent on non-irrigated sites that receive 8 or more inches of annual precipitation
- Best growth in spring, but remains green throughout summer
- Slow germination and seedling growth



Newhy



Hybrid Wheatgrass (1989)

- **Cross between bluebunch wheatgrass and quackgrass**
- **Mildly spreading**
- **Palatable**
- **Tolerant of salty soils**
- **Irrigated or non-irrigated sites with 13 or more inches of precipitation**
- **Not as productive as other species on fertile irrigated soil**



Legumes

- A legume may be added to the mix at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per acre to provide a nitrogen source and improve nutrition.
- Some legumes increase the risk of bloat.

Alfalfa

- **Very productive**
- **Excellent palatability**
- **Short-lived**
- **Irrigated or non-irrigated**



White Clover

- **Spreading**
- **High productivity**
- **Long-lived**
- **Adapted to irrigated pastures**
- **Short stature makes it well adapted to grazing, but not for haying**




Strawberry Clover

- **Spreading**
- **Moderate production**
- **Tolerant of wet and salty conditions**

Sainfoin

- **Non-bloating**
- **Less productive and shorter lived than alfalfa**
- **Irrigated or non-irrigated with 13 or more inches of annual precipitation**




Birdsfoot Trefoil

- **Non-bloating**
- **Moderate production**
- **Excellent palatability**
- **Tolerant of wet or mildly saline conditions**
- **Short-lived, similar to alfalfa**
- **Adapted to irrigated pastures**

