



Creeping Foxtail

CREEPING FOXTAIL(*Alopecurus arundinaceus* Poir) is a cool-season, sod-forming grass that was introduced from Euroasia. It is a rhizomatous grass which starts growth early in the spring, and grows late in the fall if moisture is available. (It is not related to Green or Yellow Foxtail which are considered noxious weeds). First seeds were collected in North Dakota, probably having been brought there by immigrants. Creeping Foxtail is found growing in many of the pot hole sloughs of North Dakota and southern Canada. It is often compared with Reed Canarygrass as it will grow in wet areas or wet waterways. Creeping Foxtail is a robust, productive grass that maintains growth throughout the growing season, thus producing an almost continuous good quality forage.



FACTS ABOUT CREEPING FOXTAIL:

- **Seedheads develop soon after spring growth, which turn black at maturity and shatter easily.**
- **It forms strong rhizomes, dense sod, and is well adapted to wetland pastures and some mountain meadows.**
- **Creeping Foxtail is adapted to a wide range of poorly drained soils, that can be either strongly acidic to slightly alkaline in nature.**
- **It is an exceptionally frost tolerant plant, where frost-free periods are less than 30 days.**
- **Creeping Foxtail is moderately drought tolerant, but best performance is achieved in areas receiving 18 inches or more average annual precipitation.**
- **After establishment, Creeping Foxtail will withstand up to 60 to 70 days of inundation.**
- **Creeping Foxtail is often preferred over Reed Canarygrass because it is a more dependable seed producer.**
- **Creeping Foxtail is palatable to livestock especially when planted in association with certain legumes (alsike clover, ladino clover, Birdsfoot trefoil).**

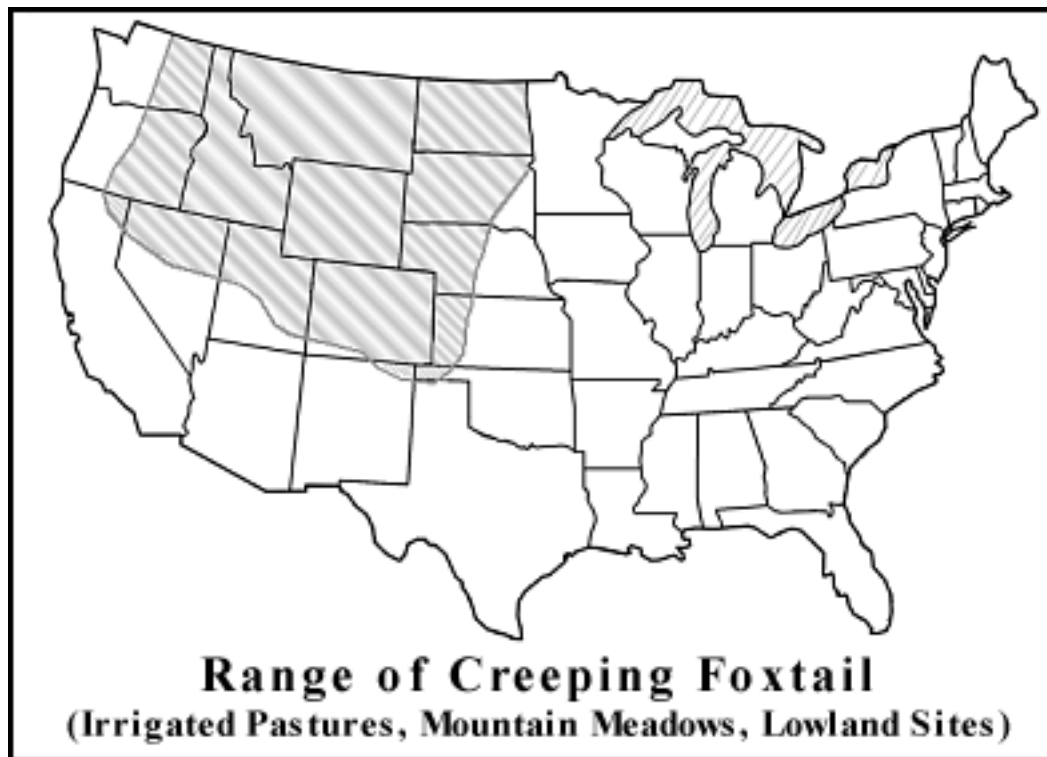
VARIETY:

Garrison is an improved variety of Creeping Foxtail that is proving to be an excellent forage producer that maintains palatability to livestock even after the plants begin heading. It is ideal for hay or pasture on sites too wet to mow or graze in the early summer. The vigorous sod and strong growth of Garrison Creeping Foxtail forms an effective barrier to erosion, and is an excellent plant for shoreline erosion control on ponds, lakes, streams or wet waterways. Because Garrison Creeping Foxtail is a heavy user of nutrients plus having a long growing season, it is well suited for use in filter fields for disposal of waste waters from food processing industries, livestock wastes and sewage treatment plants. The plants themselves provide good nesting cover and/or sites for waterfowl.

ESTABLISHMENT / MANAGEMENT

A firm, moist, clean seedbed is essential for good establishment. Meadow sod or weedy fields should be fall plowed and possibly over-cropped with oats for a year or two prior to establishment to eliminate weeds and competing grasses. Garrison seed germinates readily but seedling growth is slow and not very competitive. The seeds are very small and should be planted no deeper than 1/2" for good emergence, at a rate of 5 lbs/a. The seeds may be planted in the fall (late summer further south) or early spring. Surface drainage for water control is desirable.

New seedlings should not be grazed until the grass is fully established; cut at least 2 crops of hay prior to grazing. Leave 4-6 inches of stubble after each mowing to maintain plant vigor, to promote rapid regrowth and for winter protection. Begin spring grazing when plants are 10-12 inches high. Allow 3-5 weeks regrowth between each grazing. Nitrogen is usually required on a yearly basis.



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