HYBRID PEARL MILLET

“LEAFY”

Leafy is a multiuse summer annual forage recommended for grazing, greenchop, or hay. Leafy produces fine-stemmed leafy forage that recovers quickly after grazing or mowing. Leafy is widely adapted to all areas where Sudangrass and Sorghum Sudangrass hybrids are grown. It is also, well adapted to more humid regains where leaf and stem diseases present a problem to Sudan and Sorghum Sudan hybrids. Leafy has the capability to produce good quality forage, even on marginal soils such as acidic or lighter sandy soil.

The massive root system that is inherent to Leafy enables the hybrid to tolerate drought stress, coupled with the fact that the forage produced poses no threat of prussic acid poisoning, which is common in drought stressed forages.

Morphological Characteristics:
• High leaf stem ratio
• High protein content
• Small diameter stems
• Smooth leaves and stems
• Leafy dense foliage
• Dwarf or “bushy” plant stature

Agronomic Characteristics:
• Excellent seedling vigor
• High tillering capability
• Large canopy provides rapid ground shading to help restrict moisture losses from evaporation
• Drought tolerance
• Produces on marginal soils – both sandy or acidic
• No danger from prussic acid or Sorghum cystitis (if feeding horses)
• Medium late maturity
Management Program

Planting:
• Leafy is a warm season annual hybrid with the optimum planting time being when the soil temperature reaches a minimum of 65° F
• Seed count is approximately 80,000 seed/pound
• Planting should be on a moist firm seed bed at a shallow depth of ½-¾ inch

Caution - should be observed in not planting Hybrid Pearl Millet too deep or in not allowing the soil to crust prior to emergence

Planting Rates:
• Narrow row spacing 15-20 lbs/acre
• Broadcast 25-36 lbs/acre

Grazing and Haying management:
• Millet can be grazed within three weeks of emergence or when plants reach a height of 18-24 inches
• Producers should graze to a height of 4-6 inches to allow more rapid regrowth
• A rotational system of grazing should be utilized for maximum efficiency
• Hay should begin at the plant heights of 48” and completed by pre-boot to prevent hay quality loss at the heading. Crude protein per bale and per acre is actually higher with multiple regrowth
50% if plant digestibility can be lost within hours of heading

When haying or grazing, growers should note that regrowth must come from terminal or axillary meristems, higher remnant stubble results in more vigorous and leafier regrowth.

Leafy, Hybrid Pearl Millet is proving to be a safe, cost effective, reliable source of summer annual forage across a wide range of growing conditions. In experiment station tests across the Southeastern U.S., Hybrid Pearl Millets have proven to be competitive and in some tests superior to more traditional forages such as Sudangrass or Sorghum Sudangrass Hybrids.