

SPRINT

ROYAL OATS AND PACKER PEAS

SPRINT is a forage blend of **Royal Oats** and **Packer Peas** that produces high yields of high quality forage in dairy areas throughout the northern United States and Canada.

Key Features:

- ◆ **Royal** is a tall, late maturing, high yielding forage oat that produces long, wide leaves and excellent forage quality.
- ◆ **Packer** is a small seeded, purple flowered forage pea that has longer vines and larger leaves than Trapper, the pea variety common in generic blends.
- ◆ **Sprint** is commonly used as a nurse crop to establish alfalfa in the spring.
- ◆ **Sprint's** high tonnage and excellent quality make it an ideal forage to double crop ahead of Milage, a summer forage blend of soybeans and sorghum. A realistic double crop production goal is 6 to 9 tons of dry matter per acre if Milage is grown at least 85 days and fertility and moisture are good. An added benefit of double cropping **Sprint** and Milage is that manure can be incorporated after **Sprint** has been harvested.
- ◆ **Sprint** is an ideal forage to plant after crops such as winter wheat, sweet corn and processing peas. Plant during the first two weeks of August and harvest two months later. A frost will kill weeds but will not slow **Sprint** unless temperatures drop below 25F. Using a companion crop to establish alfalfa in August is not recommended.

Sprint excelled in regional forage trials conducted in 2001 and 2002.

Performance of Sprint and a generic blend (Ogle oats/Trapper peas) in 2001 and 2002.

Forage Blend	Days to Harvest	Canopy Height in.	DM Yield Tons/a	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	Milk Yield lb/a	RFV	Gross Returns \$/a
Sprint	65	34	2.86	18.2	35.8	49.1	4019	116	442
Generic	61	33	2.37	17.9	37.4	50.3	3040	111	334

Locations: Willsboro, New York Wooster, Ohio Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

CP, ADF and NDF were determined by wet chemistry.

Gross returns/acre assume a milk price of \$11/cwt.

Plant as a nurse crop, 120 lbs./Acre; alone, 150 lbs./Acre



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TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION



Forage Field Peas—Forage Oats Mixture

Sprint

- Dependable blend of familiar spring forages.
- High yield with high forage quality and high protein.
- Excellent nurse crop choice.

Sprint is a carefully controlled blend of forage field peas and forage oats which provides higher protein levels, lower fiber levels and better yield consistency than other spring cereals. Both field peas and oats are cool-season crops and perform best when seeded as early as possible in the spring. The oats provide a strong understructure for the peas which grow slightly faster. As a legume, peas provide large amounts of nitrogen via N-fixation through heavy nodulation of the roots.

Sprint normally reaches the late boot stage about a week later than Tripper. Research has demonstrated that Sprint usually produces greater tonnage, while Tripper typically has higher quality. Sprint used in combination with Tripper is an excellent way to establish a wider window to harvest more high quality forage. Five to seven days can be added with similar planting dates.

Reported protein levels of 15-20 percent make Sprint an excellent choice for high-producing dairy cows. High yield potential combined with excellent quality gives Sprint the ability to produce outstanding levels of milk per acre.

Mixture Components:

Royal Forage Oats: (*Avena sativa*)

There are two types of Oats, Spring Oats and Winter Oats. Winter Oats are not as hardy as other winter grains and are grown in areas with mild winters which is primarily the southeastern US. Oats perform best in areas with a cool, moist climate and fertile soils.

The plant stands from 24" to 48" tall and has 6-10 long, narrow leaves. The head is a panicle consisting of many branches in which each end has a spikelet.

Packer Forage Field Peas: (*Pisum sativum* subsp. *Sativum* var. *arvense*)

Field Peas are similar to garden peas except that the latter has a sweeter more delicate flavor and is softer. Field peas have smooth, hard seeds that may be green, yellow, white, gray, blue, brown or spotted. When the field pea is used for forage, it is usually grown with a small grain.

Agronomic Traits:

Royal Forage Oats:

Plant Height:	Tall
Maturity:	Late

Packer Forage Field Peas:

Flower Color:	Purple
Vine Length:	longer than Trapper
Leaf Size:	longer than Trapper
Seed Size:	Small

Planting Rates:

Rate (Lbs. Per Acre)	
Pure:	150
With Alfalfa	120

Quality Data—Sprint:

Sprint Management & Production Guide:

Seeding:

Excellent nurse crop for alfalfa.

Plant either in the spring when oats are normally planted, or during the first 2 weeks of August.

Pure stand: plant 150 lbs. Per acre.

With alfalfa: plant 120 lbs. Per acre.

Do not seed before the first of August to minimize disease problems.

Harvest:

Sprint is usually ready to harvest 60-70 days after seeding.

Warm weather will accelerate growth resulting in an earlier harvest date.

A long, cool spring will slow growth resulting in a later harvest.

Harvest when the oats are in the very late boot stage (head just about to emerge).

Sprint usually reaches the late boot stage five to seven days later than Tripper.

Doubling Cropping:

Milage after Sprint:

Seed Sprint early in the spring and harvest mid to late June, then follow with Milage.

Sprint after Winter Wheat:

Plant Sprint during the first 2 weeks of August and harvest 60-70 days later.

Sprint will tolerate temperatures down to 24 F before it is frost damaged.

Tripper can be mixed with Sprint for the August seeding.