

the high QUALITY Brome



'Ceres'
 **ATOM**
P R A I R I E G R A S S

all year round
high quality from
an alternative grass

- High quality autumn-winter feed
- Palatable seedhead
- Clover and herb friendly
- High protein content
- Cattle grazing and hay option
- Long seasonal spread of growth

Prairie grass is a large leaved, large tillered, short-lived perennial, with excellent winter/early spring growth. Unlike most other grasses, its large-seeded flower head is quite palatable to stock. This characteristic, combined with its nil endophyte feed offers a valuable high quality alternative to many dairy and beef production systems. Its heat tolerance allows for a longer growth period into summer, and earlier recovery after the summer dry. As a prolific seeder, persistence of 3-4 years is possible with a lax rotational grazing regime. Prairie grass requires fertile free-draining soils. It is intolerant of water-logging and pugging.

Why use Prairie Grass?

Prairie grass is a member of the Bromus species. There are three major brome species in commercial use; Prairie grass, Pasture brome, and Grazing brome. Bromes are more heat tolerant than ryegrasses. Bromes maintain their high quality status even when in a reproductive state. And of most benefit to the northern states of Australia, bromes have the potential to persist for longer than ryegrass in subtropical pastures.



Establishment and grazing management



PGG Seeds field walk session in a successful ATOM prairie grass pasture, Beaudesert,



The large seedhead is palatable and nutritious to stock, and aids persistence when allowed to reseed in autumn.



Top quality early spring feed on offer; ATOM prairie grass, TONIC plantain, GROUSE chicory and lucerne.

Sowing rate kg/ha	Seed count @1kg/ha	Season of sowing	Ideal establishment conditions
30-55	90.000	Early Autumn	Fertile Free draining, weed free pH above 5.5 Sowing depth of 5-15mm Phosphorus based starter fertiliser On-going nitrogen applications

Recommended companion species
 TONIC plantain, GROUSE chicory, white & red clover, Lucerne, annual legumes
 Sowing this combination of species will create a balanced high performance pasture.
 Prairie grass is best established as the sole grass in a mix – to gain the maximum benefit from establishment and utilization.

From sowing, graze when the plant has 4 tillers. In mid winter the grazing interval may be 30-35 days, and in early spring it may be shortened to 20-25 days due to the natural spring flush.

Longer grazing intervals during late spring and summer are essential for prairie grass persistence and reseeding. This allows the lower tillers to senesce and form a mat on the soil surface. The idea of a mat is to reduce the soil surface temperatures in summer and to prevent summer grasses and weeds establishing. This mat breaks down towards the end of summer and allows the new prairie grass seedlings to germinate and establish.

Grazing tips

For pure prairie grass stands summer weeds and grasses can be sprayed out with Glyphosate anytime after mid-late February. This is the point when new prairie grass seedlings begin to germinate. Depending upon weed seedbank this may need to be repeated every two years. This will lead to a more solid permanent prairie grass pasture. Do not graze when the soil is waterlogged.

Atom filling feed gaps

Atom prairie grass is filling some valuable feed supply gaps left by perennial ryegrass. It provides a good bulk of feed in spring, which we can turn into silage, and it throws good feed through summer, giving us one grazing a month. Compared to ryegrass it is more heat tolerant and grows for longer. We graze it at the 4 leaf stage, which usually means a 28 day rotation. It is established with red and white clover and Tonic plantain. Passers-by often mistake the lush growth for dense well-grown oats.

Sam and Fleur Tonge, 250 acre dairy farm, Casino, northern NSW

High quality winter forage

ATOM prairie grass and PGG Seeds products are available from your local seed retailer, and for more information contact

- Dean Baker** Nth NSW, QLD 0407 263 826
- Sven Koljo** Sth NSW, Nth VIC 0427 772 488
- Dick Evans** VIC, TAS 0418 579 220

