

HAYMAKER

C4 WARM SEASON ANNUAL GRASS

THE CUT AND CARRY SPECIALIST

DESCRIPTION

Haymaker is a warm season C4 annual grass which makes great quality hay and silage across several cuts throughout the warmest seasons of the year.

WHERE IT FITS

Haymaker can be used as a specialist silage or hay crop throughout northern New Zealand in regions where there is no risk of frosts. Quick to establish to the first cut as well as short intervals to subsequent cuts, four or more cuts can usually be achieved in a season. Haymaker is perfect for sowing late in the season following crop failures or for late plantings.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Short maturity timeframe
- ▶ Multiple cuts
- ▶ Resistant to insects which damage other summer crops
- ▶ High protein levels
- ▶ High water use efficiency
- ▶ Lower risk of nitrates and prussic acid compounds

AGRONOMIC TRAITS

PERSISTENCE	DISEASE RESISTANCE	SOWING RATE (kg/ha)
5-7 Months *	High	6-8
SOWING TIMEFRAME	PROTEIN CONTENT	GROWTH PEAK
Soil temp 16°C +	Med - High	Summer to Early Autumn

* Subject to management and climatic conditions

	Haymaker baleage	Pasture baleage	Low grain maize silage
DM	33.9%	35.45%	28-40%
ME	9.7 MJME	9.5-11.5 MJME	10-10.5 MJME
CP%	18% *	12-17%	8%
NDF	53	45-55	53-45-50

Data for the other 2 comparisons comes from DairyNZ facts and figures
* Subject to management and climatic conditions

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GROWING GUIDE

Haymaker is a warm season C4 annual grass which is known for producing quality hay and silage. Originating from north eastern Africa, it is now grown throughout the world.

Haymaker is higher in protein compared with forages such as millet and sorghum. It is managed as an annual crop with between two and five cuttings possible throughout the spring to autumn period. Haymaker is killed by freezing air temperatures at all growth stages during both establishment and the growing season.

SOWING

- ▶ Sowing should occur once frosts have finished for the season and soil temperature is greater than 16°C. Growth will accelerate when daily maximum air temperatures begin to exceed 20°C.
- ▶ Seedbed preparation is extremely important. Haymaker seed is very small, so a fine firm seed bed is highly recommended. Haymaker seed should not be direct drilled. Sowing depth should be approx. 1/4 cm. Any deeper and the seed will not have enough vigour to reach the surface.
- ▶ In NZ, a sowing rate of 6-8kg/ha of bare seed is recommended. If seed is treated, increase sowing rate.

HARVEST

- ▶ Haymaker has a very fine and shallow root structure, therefore grazing is not recommended.
- ▶ First cut is generally 4-8 weeks post sowing – dependent on environmental conditions.
- ▶ For first cut, aim for approx. 7 cm for cutting height, this will prevent growing points from being damaged during mowing and aids in re-growth.
- ▶ Second cut should be ready in 3-6 weeks, providing you have sufficient moisture and warm temperatures. Again, cut to approx. 7 cm to enhance re-growth potential.
- ▶ Apply Nitrogen fertiliser following each cut at 80-100kg urea/hectare.

FERTILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Fertility requirements are similar to other warm season grasses, Haymaker requires a medium to high fertility paddock, pH of 6.0+, Olsen P >20. DAP should be applied at time of sowing at a rate of approx. 150kg/ha and ideally broadcast. Other fertilisers should be applied as per soil test.
- ▶ From both New Zealand and overseas research, Haymaker has a protein of 12-20%, ADF of 29-35%, 50-60%NDF.

CHEMICAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ For the majority of weed control a Flumetsulam (Preside/Valdo) herbicide will suffice. This can be applied once the crop reaches >50% groundcover.

