



Choosing between Forage Sorghum, Sorghum Sudan, Hybrid Sudangrass and Master Graze by Larry Hawkins

Forage Sorghum (FS)

- Treated more like corn silage :
 - Planted in rows, direct chopped
 - One-cut system
 - Shorter relative maturities (85 and 94 days) now available to go further North
 - Can be Concept® treated which allows some herbicide usage
 - Nutrient profile – can reach 10% CP, 10% Sugar and 10% Starch in soft dough stage
 - Yield – In Southern parts of Byron marketing area will be competitive with or beating corn silage. In Northern parts where double cropped with Triticale will match corn silage yield
 - Seeding rate – 80,000 seeds/acre (usually 5 to 8#’s). This the least expensive sorghum product to plant
 - Harvested at soft dough stage as grain becomes very hard as it ripens
 - Available in untreated (UT), but not Certified Organic
 - Harvest for haylage and baleage
- Sorghum Sudan (SS)
 - Quickest harvest after planting (45 days for first cut, than 30 days for subsequent cuts)
 - 2 or more cut system – more cuttings further South, less further North
 - Can be 11 to 22% CP depending on fertility
 - Produces between 2 and 2½ DM per cutting
 - Seeding rates – 40 to 50#’s in Upper Midwest, decreasing to 25#’s in KY and TN
 - Available in untreated (UT), but not Certified Organic
 - Harvest for haylage, baleage or grazing
 - Can be interseeded with 5#’s annual red clover for cover crop for the next fall, winter
- Hybrid Sudangrass (SG)
 - Only candidate of this group for dry baling
 - Fastest dry-down for haylage/baleage also
 - Available in untreated (UT), but not Certified Organic
 - Can be 11 to 22% CP depending on fertility
 - New AS9301 is competitive on yield and quality with SS. It is the first BMR Gene 6 Sudan Hybrid
 - Seeding rate – 20 to 25#’s/acre
 - Available in untreated (UT), but not Certified Organic
 - Harvest as haylage, dry hay, baleage or by grazing
- Master Graze (MG)
 - Has the earliest planting date – can be planted after soil temps hit 55°F whereas all sorghums must wait for 60°F
 - Can be from 11% to 18% CP



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- Largest yield for a 60 day crop – 4 to 5 tons DM
- Seeding rate – 30,000 to 36,000/acre depending on row width.
- One-cut system, however Sorghum Sudan or Hybrid Sudangrass can be seeded into MG after cutting and MG tillers will add to first cutting of sorghum.
- Available in untreated (UT), but not Certified Organic
- Harvest for haylage, baleage or by grazing