



# NORTHSTAR SEED LTD.

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## Perennial Ryegrass Seed Production

Perennial ryegrass is a cool season perennial bunch grass that has a fibrous root system and is well suited to wet, heavy soils with a good tolerance to flooding. Perennial ryegrass is a biennial crop in Canada, planted a year prior to harvest and is an excellent alternative to winter cereal crops. Early August harvest helps to make better use of machinery and time. Perennial ryegrass is crop insurable in Manitoba



**Contracts:** Are for 1 seed crop year.

**Field Selection** Perennial Ryegrass is suited to wet heavy soils. Fields with quackgrass or high wild oat populations should be avoided. Land treated with residual herbicides should be carefully considered because some chemicals may impair seed germination.

**Seeding:** At a rate of 6-8 lbs/ac and at a depth of about half inch. Solid seeding with an air seeder or drill into a firm seed bed works really well because of accurate seed placement and packing. Can be sown under a cover crop in the spring or into standing cereal or canola stubble in late August or early September

**Crop Protection:** In the seedling year there are a number of chemicals available for broadleaf and annual grass weed control. In the production year broadleaf weeds can be controlled fairly easily but timing of application is critical for wild oat control. There is no control for quackgrass.

**Harvest:** Perennial Ryegrass needs to be swathed which usually takes place late July with combining 5-7 days later. Perennial ryegrass tends to lay down readily which can make swathing difficult.

**Yields:** Have ranged from 600-1200 lbs/ac with an average yield being around that 800-900 lb range

**Post Harvest:** Perennial Ryegrass seed should be put in an aeration bin to get moisture level below 12% which is safe for storage. The straw has some nutritional value and can be baled and used for feed. Regrowth should be sprayed with glyphosate in the fall.

## Contact Us

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