

Bermudagrass

Scientific name: *Cynodon dactylon*

Botanical family: *Poaceae* (grass family)

Country of origin: Asia tropical and subtropical parts of the world.

Centers of Production: Tropical and subtropical parts of the world; distributed from Maryland to Kansas, southward to the Gulf of Mexico, and westward from Texas to California. In general, the same areas as cotton production.



Best Pasture Mixes: crimson, white, hop and Persian clover or with lespedeza.

Growing Season: Warm season crop and is limited to growth in northern states due to lack of winter hardiness. It grows very well during the hot summer but doesn't start growth until late spring. Once the onset of cold occurs, bermudagrass becomes bleached and stops growth.

Soil Type: fertile, well drained soils; some varieties prefer soil with some clay but majority of bermudagrass varieties prefer sandy soils. Most varieties prefers a pH of 5.5.

Fertilizer Requirement: "For pasture, apply 50 to 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre in mid-May after grass "greens-up." Apply 50 pounds per acre every 30 days thereafter. The application of nitrogen after mid-September delays hardening of the bermudagrass and increases the risk of winter injury." (University of Missouri Extension) Bermudagrass responds very well to fertilizer application, and in doing so, to maintain a steady growing season, split fertilizer application is recommended.

Bermudagrass Uses: Bermudagrass makes excellent summer pasture either in a mix or alone. Although it is an excellent forage, bermudagrass can get tough and wiry as it approaches maturity.

Cattle grazing bermudagrass-

<http://oaes.pss.okstate.edu/agronstations/1haskell/haskelltour2000/bermfgr.jpg>