

# Seed Production Timothy



Timothy is a medium-lived, cool season perennial bunchgrass with a fibrous root system. The crop performs very well under cool, moist conditions.

Timothy seed is used to grow good quality forages for both domestic and international live-stock programs.

## Field Selection

Timothy is well adapted to a wide range of soil conditions. Seed yields tend to increase on well-drained clay or clay loam soils. Timothy is fairly tolerant to flooding in the spring.

The field must be free of residual herbicides like Edge, Treflan and others. It is important to review the herbicide history of the field before planting.

Glyphosate application in the years prior to seeding help to eliminate perennial weeds.

## Weed Control

Herbicides are available to control broadleaf weeds. However, there are few chemical choices available for controlling wild oats and green foxtail. Once established Timothy does provide significant crop competition.

## Fertility

Timothy must be fertilized in late fall or early spring. Recommended nitrogen levels range from 60-100 lbs of actual N.

## Seeding

Timothy is a very small seed that must be sown shallow into a firm seed bed. Cover crops such as wheat, oats and flax may be used.

A variety of seeding implements can be used when seeding the crop. Generally Timothy is seeded at 2lbs/acre.

## Harvesting

Timothy must be swathed, usually in early August. It is earlier than most crops, which can help split up the harvest.

Harvesting with either a conventional or rotary combine usually takes place about 5-7 days after cutting depending on weather.

Dry is 10%, but can be harvested at 14% or 15% and dried in an aeration bin. Heat cannot be used as it can affect germination.

## Seed Yield

Timothy yields have ranged from 200 to 600 lbs/acre net clean seed, with a five-year average 350 lbs. Prices have ranged from \$0.40/lb to \$0.60/lb.

## Other Factors

Timothy straw must be removed from the field at harvest. The straw has relatively good feed value for livestock.

Timothy is a low input crop that grows well on poorly drained, low productive soils.

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A large, curved photograph of a lush green Timothy field under a clear sky, positioned on the right side of the page.

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