



*The Next Generation
Higher Yields
Longer Life*

Variety Summary

Persist II orchardgrass has even better yields, persistence, and hardiness than its well-loved predecessor. It is ideal for both grazing and mechanical harvesting. Persist II provides top performance in the transition zone and is very adapted to other cool-season regions where multi-year forage is desired.

Bred to Last

Persist II orchardgrass was selected entirely from the original Persist variety. In 2009, researchers at the University of Tennessee established a paddock of Persist. The paddock was subsequently grazed under high pressure until spring 2013, resulting in the desiccation of 90% of the stand. Individual plant selections were made from the remaining 10% stand, all having demonstrated good grazing tolerance. The selections were further rated for vigor, maturity, growth habit, and disease resistance for an additional three years, culminating in a final new variety worthy of the Persist name.

Early Yields, Excellent Regrowth

Like its predecessor, Persist II provides excellent early grazing and first cut hay followed by abundant season-long forage production, thanks in part to its ability to quickly regrow after early cuts and grazing events. Persist II is also a dependable variety when faced with tough conditions, such as drought.

Grazing Tolerance

Grazing data from Kentucky and Tennessee confirm Persist II's ability to withstand multiple years of grazing. Many varieties can handle a couple of years of grazing, but not all are capable of numerous years, especially when conditions are intensified.

Planting Instructions

Persist II is adapted to transition zone and cool-season climates. Ideal planting times are early spring or fall.

Seeding Rate

Seed at 15-18 lbs/ac for new straight seedings and 8-10 lbs/ac in mixtures with other grasses or legumes. Increase seeding rate when broadcast seeding. For best weed control, plant companion clovers after adequate establishment and weed management have been performed.

Forage Yield (Tons DM/A) University of Tennessee – Springfield TN				
Variety	2022	2023	2024	3-yr total
Persist II	1.64	4.82*	3.26*	9.73*
Persist	1.39	4.82*	3.04*	9.24*
Endurance	1.68	4.40*	2.91*	8.98*
Inavele	1.66	4.68*	2.49	8.81*
INTENSIV	1.57	4.66*	2.41	8.64
Rushmore II	1.66	4.23	2.61	8.50
Potomac	1.51	4.49*	2.41	8.40
Devour	1.59	4.59*	2.01	8.17
Bighorn	1.47	4.39*	2.21	8.07
LSD,0.05	nd1	0.64	0.58	1.06

Planted Sept 14, 2021. Note, due to drought in 2022 only one harvest collected. Extreme drought end of Summer 2024 did not allow a Fall harvest. *Yielded statistically the same as the top-yielding variety. nd1 = no significant differences among the varieties. Complete data available upon request.

2020-23 Grazing Tolerance (% Stand) University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY				
Variety	Oct 2 '20	Oct 7 '21	Oct 24 '22	Oct 17 '23
Persist II	100	100	100*	98*
Devour	100	100	100*	98*
Persist	100	100	99*	98*
Prairie	100	100	100*	96*
HLR	100	100	99*	92*
Profit	100	100	99*	91*
Intensiv	100	100	99*	82
Swante	100	100	90	69
LSD,0.05	0	1	3	9

Planted Sept 8, 2020. *Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD. Complete data available upon request.

Persist II - Plant for Keeps!

For planting instructions, photos, and more information visit persistorchardgrass.com