

## **PERSIST 70% MORE PERSISTENT UNDER GRAZING THAN OTHER ORCHARDGRASS!**

### **Tennessee: 1997-2001**

Some of the most significant data has come from a persistence study conducted at the Ames Plantation in SW Tennessee where a comparison grazing study was conducted with Persist and Benchmark orchardgrass. Both varieties were planted in separate pastures, with and without clover.

### **SUMMARY:**

After an intense drought and stressed period in 1999, two years after the trial began, there was a dramatic difference in the performance of the two cultivars. The other variety simply could not handle or recover from the stress. Persist, on the other hand, continued to not only survive, but to provide good, healthy stands of grass, even when the clover died out in the third year.

### **RECORDED OBSERVATIONS:**

The following are the recorded observations of the University of Tennessee research team:

**Spring 1997** - All pastures seeded in pure stand of orchardgrass are well established, with no visible difference with regard to variety. The grass is too tall and the stands too thick to make quantitative estimates. All the orchardgrass-clover mix pastures have about the same grass-clover ratio.

**Spring 1998** - The orchardgrass-clover pastures have about 50:50 ratio of grass-clover. Pure orchardgrass pastures appear to be equal.

**Summer 1999** - One of the Persist-clover and one of the Benchmark/clover pastures has a decrease in clover to about 30%. The clover in one of the Persist pastures has increased to about 60%.

**Fall 1999** - All pastures show drought stress. Pastures with clover appear better than those with orchardgrass as a pure stand. **Pastures with Persist in a pure stand are superior to those with the Benchmark in a pure stand.**

**Spring 2000** - Persist pastures in pure stand have a good stand of grass. Benchmark pastures in pure stand are thin and have little available grass. Benchmark pastures with clover have a loss of grass. The grass in these pastures appears stressed and is not as green as those with Persist.

**Fall 2000** - Clover has been lost in all pastures that were originally seeded with clovers. **Orchardgrass stands are approximately 70-80% in Persist pastures seeded without clover and 0-10% in the Benchmark pastures seeded without clover.**

**Spring 2001** – **Stands of Persist in pasture seeded without clover are about 80%.** The stand of Benchmark (also seeded without clover) is less than 10%.

