

## Selecting a Good Grass Variety

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### 1) Select high yielding varieties to get up to 4 t/a additional yield per year

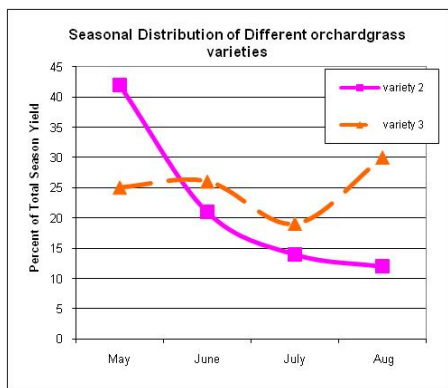
- Check UW Extension publication A1525 Forage Variety Update for Wisconsin.
- Check website for more detail (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/forage/>).
- Traditional species to avoid:
  - Smooth brome grass - high yield but 60 to 70% of yield in first cutting with little rest of season.
  - Timothy - short lived (2 to 4 years) and lowest yielding grass.

### 2) Select tested varieties to ensure adequate winterhardiness (brown rectangles in trials shown at right are orchardgrass varieties with insufficient winterhardiness).



Winterhardy vs winterkilled orchardgrass varieties

### 3) Select medium to late maturity varieties (cheap seed is early varieties that head before alfalfa is ready to cut). Some varieties head out up to *two weeks later* than others.



### 4) Select a variety with more consistent yield throughout growing season (variety with a $\beta$ greater than -2 from forage website (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/forage/>)).

### 5) Select orchardgrass, tall fescue, and meadow fescue varieties with rust resistance – rust will reduce yield and reduce animal intake. Rust is orange particles that coat shoes in July and August when walking through fields.



Rust Infected

Rust Resistant