

# Timothy (Ch 6 pg 125-143)

(*Phleum pratense* L.)

## Background

- Timothy is a cool-season, shallow - rooted bunch grass, well adapted to Northeast and Upper Midwest USA.
- Grown primarily as hay (choice for horse owners), but can also be used in pastures.
- Timothy is often grown in mixes with legumes.
- Has haplocorm or corm, an enlarged bulbous structure at stem base, where energy reserves are stored for regrowth and tillering.

## Agronomy

- Timothy is best adapted to moist and cool environments.
- Can be established in spring and can easily be established late summer and early fall.
- Seed at 8 lbs/acre in pure stands, and 2 to 6 lbs/acre when used in mixtures.
- Weed control must be good during establishment, grassy weeds especially harmful.
- Timothy relatively tolerant of harvesting or grazing before jointing stage (stem elongation), but can be damaged if cut or grazed during jointing to early heading stage. Once stem elongation begins, wait to cut timothy until mid to late bloom stage.
- Responsive to N fertilization whenever legume content in the stand is less than 30%.

## Advantages

- Excellent winter hardiness; Fair tolerance to wet soils.
- Good companion with legumes (not very competitive with legumes).
- Easy to establish, good seedling vigor.
- Very palatable with high forage quality until seedhead appearance, quality decreases rapidly after heading.

## Disadvantages

- Not tolerant of drought, sensitive to high temperatures, poor summer growth.
- Unsuitable to droughty soils; lower yielding than orchardgrass in Ohio.
- Easily weakened by frequent grazing or harvesting (limited energy reserves in corms and few basal leaves below cutting or grazing height to carry on photosynthesis).

## Varieties

- Old varieties: Clair, Climax, Mohawk.
- Newer varieties: Barfleo, Barmidi, Derby, Dolina, Express, Summit, Vega.

Shoot	rolled
Ligule	white, short (~0.1 inch)
Auricles	usually absent, occasionally present but small
Sheath	smooth, sides overlap near top
Blade	narrow and flat, rolled within whorl, often twisted
Seed head	dense cylinder, 2-3 inches long