

New Orchardgrass Varieties

For the South Coastal Region in 2002

Forage producers in the South Coastal Region will have available to them three new orchardgrass varieties this spring. While the varieties have only recently been registered for sale in Canada, local testing goes back over a number of years. This factsheet provides yield and relative maturity information for the varieties based on trials conducted by Ministry staff in cooperation with the BC Forage Council.

Ambassador

This variety was tested at Agassiz, Sumas Prairie, Sidney and Comox from 1982 – 1985. At that time, the company (International Seeds of Oregon) that had entered the variety decided not to pursue Canadian registration. It was only in the last year that Fraser Seeds, a relatively new seed company in BC, decided to apply for registration. The table below provides yield data for Ambassador, Sumas (the orchardgrass check variety at the time the trials were conducted) and Potomac (the current orchardgrass check variety). The average dry matter yield of Sumas (given a value of 100) over the trial period is also provided. Under each trial location is given the years in which the trial was harvested.

Variety	Yield as a % of Sumas			
	Agassiz (1983/84/85)	Sumas Prairie* (1983/84)	Sidney (1983/84/85)	Comox (1983/84/85)
Ambassador	105	100	106	104
Potomac	103	100	104	106
Sumas	100 (11.5 t/ha)	100 (14.5 t/ha)	100 (13.4 t/ha)	100 (13.1 t/ha)

*the Sumas Prairie trial was lost to leatherjackets in spring 1985 before any yield data could be collected

Relative maturity, measured as the date at which each variety reached 50% heading, was recorded from single-row trials at Agassiz and Sidney. Results appear in the tables below. In each year dates were recorded, Potomac was the earliest maturing variety of the group and Mobite was the latest or very close to it.

Forage FACTSHEET



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries
Abbotsford Agriculture Centre
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford, B.C. V3G 2M3
Phone: 604 556-3001
Fax: 604 556-3030

March, 2002

Variety	Date of 50% Heading (Agassiz)		
	1983	1984	1985
Potomac	May 4	May 9	May 12
Ambassador	May 5	May 12	May 17
Sumas	May 19	May 24	May 25
Mobite	May 27	June 3	May 31

Variety	Date of 50% Heading (Sidney)		
	1983	1984	1985
Potomac	May 2	May 7	May 11
Ambassador	May 2	May 10	May 16
Sumas	May 16	May 19	May 23
Mobite	May 24	June 1	May 25

Niva

Niva was tested at Chilliwack, Sumas Prairie, Sidney and Saanichton from 1993 – 1997. It has just recently been registered by Premier Pacific Seeds, another new BC seed company. Yield data for Niva, compared to the check variety Potomac, appear in the table below. The average dry matter yield of Potomac (given a value of 100) over the trial period is also provided. Under each trial location is given the years in which the trial was harvested.

Variety	Yield as a % of Potomac			
	Chilliwack (1994/95/96)	Sumas Prairie* (1995/1996)	Sidney** (1995/1996)	Saanichton (1995/96/97)
Niva	104	100	104	108
Potomac	100 (11.9 t/ha)	100 (13.7 t/ha)	100 (15.9 t/ha)	100 (14.4 t/ha)

*the Sumas Prairie trial was not successfully established until 1994, a year later than most of the other trials; that is why there are only two years of data

**a three-year average was not available because an error that occurred in harvesting the 4th cut in 1994 resulted in unusable data for that year

Relative maturity, measured as the date at which each variety reached 50% heading, was recorded from single-row trials at Agassiz. Results appear in the table below. In both years that dates were recorded, Potomac was the earliest maturing variety of the group and Mobite was the latest.

Variety	Date of 50% Heading (Agassiz)	
	1994	1995
Potomac	May 3	May 7
Niva	May 11	May 14
Mobite	May 23	May 24

Crown Royale

Crown Royale was tested at Chilliwack, Sumas Prairie and Sidney from 1997 – 1999. It has just recently been registered by Dawson Seed Co. Yield data for Crown Royale, compared to the check variety Potomac, appear in the table below. The average dry matter yield of Potomac (given a value of 100) over the trial period is also provided. All trials were harvested in the same years – 1998 and 1999.

Variety	Yield as a % of Potomac		
	Chilliwack	Sumas Prairie	Sidney
Crown Royale	104	103	101
Potomac	100 (12.2 t/ha)	100 (11.8 t/ha)	100 (17.6 t/ha)

Relative maturity, measured as the date at which each variety reached 50% heading, was recorded from single-row trials at Abbotsford. Results appear in the table below. In each year that dates were recorded, Potomac was the earliest maturing variety of the group and Mobite was close to the latest.

Variety	Date of 50% Heading (Abbotsford)		
	1998*	1999	2000
Potomac	May 4	May 7	May 7
Crown Royale	May 6	May 15	May 17
Mobite	May 18	May 27	May 24

*1998 was an early spring, with two weeks of hot weather starting about April 25; this tended to advance heading dates and group them closer together; 1999 and 2000 spring conditions were more normal

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following farmers who allowed us to have these trials on their farms: Van Laar and Sons, Sumas Prairie; Guy Sim, Comox; John and Larry Wigham, Chilliwack; Harold Luymes, Sumas Prairie; John and David Pendray, Sidney; Jim Sandwith, Saanichton; Alvin Wiens, Chilliwack; and David and Arnold Graham, Sumas Prairie.

If you would like to discuss these new orchardgrass varieties, please contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries office in your area. This factsheet has been prepared by Don Bates, P.Ag., Forage Specialist, BCMAFF, Abbotsford and Michael Betts, P.Ag., Regional Agrologist, BCMAFF, Sidney.