

Late Fall Dormant Seeding of Ryegrasses for Seed Production. (C04-coulman162940-Poster)

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Abstract:

Dormant seedings are carried out just prior to freeze-up in the late fall. This study investigated whether: a) There would be a seed yield advantage of dormant seedings of westerwolds ryegrass over spring seedings and; b) Dormant seeded Italian and perennial ryegrasses would be vernalized and produce seed the following year. Trials were conducted at five locations across western Canada from 1999-2001 using one cultivar of westerwolds and perennial ryegrasses and four cultivars of Italian ryegrass. Seed yields of westerwolds ryegrass generally exceeded 1 t/ha with dormant seedings approximately 30% higher than spring seedings. Dormant seeding resulted in seed production the following season in Italian ryegrass, but yields varied widely among cultivars, locations and years, and were considerably lower than those of westerwolds ryegrass. Perennial ryegrass seed yields were generally low or non-existent in both spring and dormant seedings. Dormant seeding appears to be a promising method of improving seed yields of westerwolds ryegrass in western Canada.

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