

# RYEGRASS SEED SUPPLIES IN SHORT SUPPLY

Seed supplies of some popular annual ryegrass varieties including Gulf are expected to be in short supply this fall resulting in farmers paying higher prices and/or looking for alternative planting options. “While supplies of Pennington’s *Passerel Plus* ryegrass seed are expected to be good, cost may be somewhat higher due to expected shortages of widely used varieties like Gulf”, says John Carpenter, Director of Independent Sales for the Eastern U.S. “We could very well see the price of Gulf ryegrass seed approach that of improved, higher yielding varieties like *Passerel*,” adds Carpenter.

With the expected Gulf ryegrass seed shortage and potential higher seed cost, Pennington Regional Forage Specialist Al Hubbard says it is a good time for producers to try some of the better yielding ryegrass varieties. “With the seed cost differential between Gulf and other ryegrass varieties expected to be more narrow than usual this fall, producers should strongly consider planting a better variety like *Passerel Plus* to maximize the amount of forage produced per dollar invested in seed cost,” says Hubbard. “In research trials across the country, *Passerel* has been a consistent high yielder producing significantly higher forage yields than Gulf and Common ryegrass varieties.” (See Tables 1&2)

**Table 1 Ryegrass Yield Trials**  
AL, GA & MS

Variety	Yield (lbs.DM/A)		
	AL <sup>(1)</sup>	GA <sup>(2)</sup>	MS <sup>(3)</sup>
Jackson	5944	9998	4525
Marshall	6294	10,298	5127
Nelson	5868	10,357	4618
<b>Passerel Plus</b>	<b>6537</b>	<b>10,102</b>	<b>6072</b>
TAMTBO	6452	10,503	3997

<sup>(1)</sup> 3 year avg. yield (2013-15), AU, Crossville & Headland, AL

<sup>(2)</sup> 2 year avg. yield (2014-15), UGA, Tifton, GA

<sup>(3)</sup> yield (2015) MSU, Newton, MS

**Table 2 Yield Comparison of Passerel Plus & Gulf Annual Ryegrass Varieties – LSU and TX A&M**

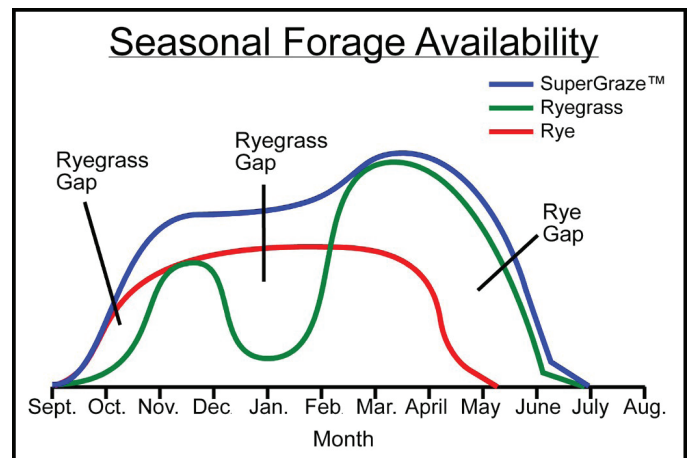
	Yield (lbs. DM/A)		
Location	Passerel Plus	Gulf	Passerel Adv.
<sup>(1)</sup> LA	9446	8956	<b>+490 lbs.</b>
<sup>(2)</sup> TX	9751	8434	<b>+1317 lbs.</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>Avg. of 4 locations (2008)

<sup>(2)</sup>3 yr. avg. (2007-09) Overton, TX

## An Alternative Option

Hubbard offers another option to maximize the return on the investment of planting cool season annuals. “Producers wanting to maximize return on their winter annual planting investment will want to try Pennington’s *Supergraze* winter annual seed mixture,” advises the forage expert. “It is a blend of the proven cereal rye variety *Wintergrazer 70* and *Passerel Plus* annual ryegrass.” According to Hubbard, these two forages complement each other by filling in grazing gaps that would normally occur with the use of just one or the other. “Rye is extremely cold tolerant. It continues to grow and provide forage for grazing animals during the colder periods of winter. Ryegrass is later maturing than rye producing huge amounts of forage when temperatures moderate in late winter and early spring. This occurs just when the rye begins to curtail its growth,” explains Hubbard. “With the *Supergraze* seed mixture, there is an ample amount of high quality grazing produced from late fall throughout winter and continuing well into late spring.”



**SUPERGRAZE™**  
— ANNUAL FORAGE SEED MIXTURE —

Featuring a mixture of proven varieties of cereal rye and annual ryegrass, Supergraze winter annual forage mix fills grazing gaps to provide high quality forage from late fall throughout winter and into late spring.