Maxi Pearl Millet

Hybrid Pearl Millet

Primary Uses

Forage Feed: Pearl millet is commonly used by livestock producers for grazing, hay, silage, and green chop. Producing pearl millet for grain is mainly used for poultry food, and typically considered better than corn-soybean broiler chicken feed. Unlike sorghum, pearl millet does not produce prussic acid or have tannins, so it is safe to feed to horses. Also, swine that have been fed pearl millet have shown to reach weight faster than on corn diet, and has also be found as a great substitute for corn in a goats diet.

Potential Yield

1 to 2 cuttings dependent upon planting date, availability of water, and growing season. 5-8 tons/acre dry matter (20 to 40 tons green weight).

Positioning/Management

Maxi Pearl Millet is an annual, warm-season crop that is grown throughout the United States for grazing, hay, cover crop, and wildlife. Maxi Pearl Millet can grow 7-8 ft. tall with a woodier stem, long and pointed leaf blades, and seeds that are cylindrical. Maxi Pearl Millet is also the preferred choice for forage compared to similar warm season millets, and is the tallest of the millets.

Annual Summer Management

Planting Date: Germination occurs at or above 54°F, and if conditions are good the seedlings will emerge in 2-4 days.

Planting Depth: 3/4” to 1 1/2” deep dependent upon the soil moisture.

Row Width: Preferably drilled in narrow rows.

Planting Method: Drill preferred.

Fertility: Nitrogen: 75 to 100 lbs./acre PPI & 50 to 75 lbs./acre after first cutting. Phosphorus: 20-60 lbs./acre, more if the soil testing indicates less than 30 lbs./acre. Potassium: 40-80 lbs./acre. A soil test should be performed for better accuracy. The above fertilization rates serve as a guide only.

Suggested Harvest Management

Maxi Pearl Millet is commonly planted after a spring grain or vegetable crop, and will regrow after cutting 6-8 in. Maxi Pearl Millet may be cut twice during a growing season, and after grazing 6-8 in. it should be allowed to regrow to 14-24 in. before being grazed grain. Mowing off the seedheads may help with more vegetative growth.

Footnotes: 1– Numerical Rating: 1 to 9

1= Excellent
5= Average
9= Poor

Ratings and descriptions are based on the research and field observations that were compared with products from multiple locations and years. Read all labels and bag tags due to the reason that they contain conditions of sale, including limitations of warranty and remedy.