



Vita Leaf

Sorghum–Sudangrass Hybrid
(Sorghum bicolor x sorghum sudanese)

- * Thin stemmed, fine seeded product
- * Fast regrowth for high yield
- * Adapted over wide areas

Vita Leaf is a small seeded three way cross that can be used for grazing or hay. It is a thin stemmed type allowing for faster dry down for high quality hay production. Regrowth is very fast giving it high yield potential. Higher planting rates will produce a smaller stemmed forage.

Crop Use Information:

Life Cycle: Annual
Ease of Establishment: Good
Shade Tolerance: Poor - Fair
Drought Stress: Good
Wet Soil: Fair
Low pH Tolerance: Moderate
Minimum pH: 6.0
Saline Soils (White Alkali): Fair
Saline – Sodic Soils (Black Alkali): Poor - Fair
Hay: Excellent
Silage: Good
Continuous Grazing: Good
Rotational Grazing: Excellent
Palatability: Excellent
Anti-Quality: Prussic Acid and Nitrates

Disease/Insect/Nematode Ratings:

Downy Mildew: MR

Agronomic Traits:

Early Seedling Vigor: Good
Growth Habit: Upright
Recovery After Cutting: Good
Maturity: 65 days to Boot
Uniformity: Fair
Plant Color: Purple
Midrib Type: Juicy
Seed Set: Very Limited

Planting Rates:

Bushel Weight: 56 lbs.

Do not plant in soil temperatures below: 60° F

Seeds per Pound: 19,000 – 22,000

Rate (Lbs.):	Dryland	Irrigated
	10 – 30	35 – 100
Seeds/Sq. Ft.	5 – 14	17 – 48

Strengths

Thin stemmed product
Small seeded product
Juicy Mid-rib
Low water requirement
Short maturity requirement – 60 days

Weaknesses

Leaf area thins near the top
Poor plant color under stress

Seeding:

Soil temperature should be at least 60° F at 1-2" deep
Can be no-tilled into the stubble of winter and spring crops
Do not plant on soils with pH greater than 7.5 to 8.0. Chlorosis will be a problem

Harvest:

The plant is in the boot 63 - 65 days after seeding
Harvesting during boot will give you the highest protein concentration
Protein will decline as harvest is delayed, but energy will increase upon heading
Seed may set if pollen is available and harvest is delayed

Avoiding Nitrate and Prussic Acid Poisoning from Sorghum:

Avoid large nitrogen applications prior to expected drought periods
2,4-D can increase Prussic Acid concentration for weeks after application
Do not harvest drought damaged plants within 4 days following a good rain
Do not harvest within 7 days of a killing frost
Cut at a higher stubble height, nitrates tend to accumulate in the lower stalk
Wait 1 month before feeding silage to give Prussic Acid enough time to escape



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