

## ■ ZORRO ITALIAN RYEGRASS (*Lolium multiflorum*)

**Zorro** is a tetraploid Italian ryegrass with excellent quality, high resistance to rust, and very good production. A new crop for our area, Italian ryegrass can provide one or two years of excellent grazing. It starts slow in the spring but really grows well from late June through mid-September. Italian ryegrass will survive mild winters in Nebraska, but you cannot count on it to come back for a second year. Its dense growth and fine texture make it a difficult crop to hay in pure stands so grazing is the best harvest option. **Zorro** should be irrigated in Central and Western Nebraska for best production results.

### PREFERRED USES:

**Grazed** – Planted as a monoculture or as a companion crop with oats in the early spring this grass will come on strong as the temperatures climb. It does not produce many seed-heads the first year, so it remains very palatable and nutritious all year long.

**ESTIMATED YIELD:** 2 to 3 tons/acre

**SEEDING DATE & RATE:** Plant 15-25 lbs./acre in early April for straight seeding and 10-15 lbs./acre with oats.

## ■ SMALL GRAINS

### OATS

**Everleaf 126** - New lighter yielding forage oat variety with extraordinary long season growth. It is recommended for irrigated production only. Medium to tall height with good standability.

**Jerry** – This dual purpose oat may be grown for either forage or grain. Grain is white, large, with very good test weight. Forage yield and quality is good.

**Loyal** – Usually considered a forage oat, it is slightly later in maturity and slightly taller than Jerry. Straw is good but not as strong as Jerry. This oat makes good hay and fair grain.

### PREFERRED USES:

**Grazed** – Spring or fall; Planted April 1<sup>st</sup> expect to graze from approximately May 15 to about July 1 depending on conditions. Planted about August 15<sup>th</sup> oats should be ready to graze in 4 to 5 weeks. Begin grazing when oats reach 4"-5" tall with one-half animal unit/acre and increase stocking rate as forage growth increases. Two pair or more per acre are possible on irrigated oats.

**Hay** – Oats should be cut in the early dough stage for maximum forage yield and pounds digestible dry matter.

**ESTIMATED YIELD:** 1.5 to 2.5 tons dry matter/acre

**SEEDING DATE & RATE:** As soon as possible after mid-March to Mid-April in spring, Mid-August to Mid-September in fall; Seed 48 to 64 lbs./acre dryland and 64 to 100 lbs./acre irrigated.

### WINTER RYE

### PREFERRED USES:

**Grazed** – some short term fall grazing after October 15<sup>th</sup> with adequate fall moisture and early planting; spring grazing from about April 1 through May.

**Hay** – cut in boot stage in late May to early June.

**ESTIMATED YIELD:** 1.5 to 3 tons/acre

**SEEDING DATE & RATE:** Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>; Seed 1 to 1.5 bu./acre