



“An improved Clair selection with alfalfa-equivalent maturity and better summer regrowth.”

KY-Early Timothy is an improved selection from Clair timothy bred for earlier heading, high yields, improved vigor and regrowth. It was developed jointly by the KY Ag Experimental Station and the USDA-ARS and has been extensively tested. In Kentucky, it continually outperforms many other cultivars.

Early Harvest

KY-Early was specifically bred for earlier maturity to better coincide with alfalfa harvest. KY-Early is earlier than Clair, Climax and most other timothy varieties.

High Yields

KY-Early is a high forage yielder as show by the most recent University of Kentucky data below. Growers can expect high yields with KY Early, plus excellent vigor, winter hardiness, and mid-summer growth.

Multi-Year Performance

KY-Early has shown an ability to survive wet years as well as dry/hot years, assuring farmers of longer-lasting stands.

Uses

KY-Early can be used for both hay and grazing, and is ideal forage for all types of livestock including horses, cattle, sheep and goats. Both grazers and hay producers will appreciate the increased leafiness and darker green color. For grazing, note all timothy varieties can be damaged by over grazing. Use in continuous grazing situations will drastically reduce plant longevity.

Trial Results

KY-Early has been evaluated in Kentucky for numerous years. The most recent data is from a 2013 planting. As of 2016, KY-Early is the highest yielding entry and the earliest to head.

Timothy Forage Trials, Lexington, KY, 2013-16 Data

Variety	Maturity	Percent Stand		Yield (tons/acre)			
	May 12-13	Oct 14, 2013	Oct 17, 2016	2014 Total	2015 Total	2016 Total	3-year Total
	3-yr Ave ¹						
KYEarly	54.7	93	89	3.69	4.39	2.09	10.17*
Derby	52.8	98	89	3.95	3.34	2.21	9.50*
Zenyatta	52.0	96	90	3.66	3.31	1.78	8.74*
Clair	53.3	73	81	3.32	3.40	1.49	8.22*
Summergraze	41.8	99	80	3.22	3.02	1.93	8.18*
Comtol	40.8	98	88	3.25	2.97	1.63	7.85
Climax	41.0	96	84	3.10	2.45	1.39	6.95
LSD		14	11	0.64	0.94	0.79	2.02

Trial sown September 5, 2013.

¹ Average May 12-13, 2014-16. Maturity rating scale: 37 = flag leaf emergence, 45 = boot swollen, 50 = beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58 = complete emergence of inflorescence, 62 = beginning of pollen shed.

* Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

Planting Instructions

KY-Early is easy to establish and has improved seedling vigor. Plant alone, or in combination with other grasses and legumes. Seedbed should be firm, with seeds planted between 1/4-1/2 inch. The best time to seed is late summer/early fall, or late winter/early spring.

Seeding Rates

Pure stand rates: 8-12 lb. per acre. Seed with alfalfa or clover 2-4 lbs.