

Seed & Feed

Nitrogen fertilizer expensive? Not with Alice white clover !

Due to increased cost of fuel, the price of nitrogen fertilizer has sky rocketed. In many areas the cost of fertilizer has doubled compared to a year ago. Nitrogen is an important nutrient for most grasses. To maximize production and quality it is recommended to use between 150 and 250 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for pastures.

A good white clover can provide a large part of this much-needed nutrient. White clover has been estimated to fix as much as 175 pounds of nitrogen per acre per year. Besides the cost of establishing the white clover *this nitrogen is absolutely free!* In addition, white clover is high in protein and keeps its high quality throughout the year, as it will not lignify.

Alice is a new white clover variety released by Barenbrug. Alice is known for its persistence, production and most importantly: nitrogen fixation. *Alice is capable of fixing as much as 175 pounds of nitrogen per acre.* This special trait is demonstrated on a farm in Ohio and clearly shown on a picture at the Barenbrug Web-page: www.barusa.com/alice.htm. White clover should be planted in the spring or early fall. Always use inoculated seed to ensure proper nitrogen fixing capability. The recommended seeding rate for Alice is 2.5 to 3 pounds per acre.



Inexpensive nitrogen with Alice white clover.

Ribeye annual ryegrass; up and going in the South.

Annual ryegrass is a perfect specie to overseed warmseason pastures. It establishes quickly, is relatively inexpensive and the forage quality is extraordinary. Annual ryegrass is high in sugars, high in protein and low in lignin. If fertilized with nitrogen or grown with a legume (clover), the protein content is more than adequate for all classes of livestock.

This winter has been rather cold in most of the South. Most ryegrass has not shown much growth since last year's fall. But when the temperatures finally started going up, the overseeded ryegrass finally started growing. Barenbrug's newest variety Ribeye has repeatedly been reported by farmers as *'the first one to jump out of the ground this spring'*. This is no surprise for people familiar with Ribeye annual ryegrass. The variety has been bred to produce forage early in the spring, when the demand for high quality grass is the highest. Ribeye is also very cold tolerant allowing it to tolerate cold winters like the one we've just experienced.

Ribeye was bred at Barenbrug's breeding station based in Oregon. In the development of this variety, the following plant characteristics were selected: forage production, crown-rust resistance, cold tolerance and early production. Planting Ribeye will unlock the maximum performance of land and livestock.

Although the planting season is still a few months ahead, this experience is something to remember when choosing the right variety for your farm.

Barenbrug enters joint venture with Boreal Plant Breeding

Barenbrug Holding and Boreal Plant Breeding Ltd announce the signing of a cooperative forage grass agreement. Boreal is the largest forage breeding company in Scandinavia. Based out of Jokionen Finland, Boreal has a history of breeding many high quality and very cold tolerant cool season grasses for Scandinavia, Canada, Northern USA and similar geographic areas. They specialize in Orchardgrass, Timothy, Meadow fescue and Red clover.

Barenbrug will exclusively test, produce and market new forage grass varieties developed by Boreal. In addition, the breeders of both Barenbrug and Boreal will extensively exchange plant material for use of breeding further improved varieties.

Barenbrug USA will be planting many new selections in the upper Midwest and Northeast to evaluate which varieties have the most potential for US farmers.

This joint venture is truly unique and currently the only grass breeding cooperation specifically targeting the Northern USA and Canada. As a result, many exciting new forage varieties will become available in the years to come.

Seed & Feed is a publication of Barenbrug USA. If you would like to learn more about the articles or products, please contact us:

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