

WHERE TO PLANT

Adapted across the southern 1/3 of the U.S. from California, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri to Virginia. Particularly well suited to sandy loam soils, but will thrive in most well drained loam soils.



SAHARA II
BRAND
ALL PURPOSE SEEDED FORAGE BERMUDAGRASS

Sahara II is an improved seeded variety of bermudagrass developed at Seeds West, Inc. in Arizona.

Sahara II was developed for quick establishment and coverage along with heat and drought tolerance and good yield. It develops into a thick sod with excellent durability and wear tolerance. This characteristic makes it well suited for recreational sites and other highly maintained areas. Sahara II's fine leaf trait gives superior forage palatability and digestibility. These production and quality characteristics combine to make Sahara

II desirable for multiple uses including for pastures, hayfields, landscapes, recreational areas and vegetative erosion control. Sahara II features Pennington's exclusive Penkoted® seed process. The Penkoted® process literally seals each seed inside a protective layer of fungicide and insecticide. It includes a unique growth stimulant and proprietary green color making it easier to see the seed while planting and less attractive to bird predation in the field. The Penkoted® process enhances early drought tolerance, increases seed germination speed, improves seedling survival and protects the seed while it is on the ground.

USES

- Hay production or grazing throughout the spring and summer months for all classes of grazing livestock.
- Excellent for high traffic sites such as arenas, pasture lanes and other highly maintained areas including lawns and recreational sites.
- Well suited for vegetative erosion control plantings.

BENEFITS

- Sahara II establishes quickly providing cover in 45-60 days post-planting with good growing conditions.
- Highly productive forage with fine leaves for excellent palatability.
- Forms a dense, rich green sod with exceptional durability and wear.
- Multiple use: pastures, hayfields, landscapes, recreational areas and highly erodible sites.
- Can also be used to thicken thinning stands of existing bermuda in pastures and hayfields.



PLANTING

RATE: FOR FORAGE PRODUCTION: 15 lbs/A drilled or broadcast for new stands or 8-12 lbs/A to thicken existing stands.

FOR MAINTAINED AREAS: 40-80 lbs/A (1-2 lbs/1000 sq. ft.)

DEPTH: 1/8 inch

DATE: Late spring when soil temperatures reach 65° F or above at a 4" depth thru early summer. Fall plantings may be successful in certain regions of the U.S. (Consult with the local University Extension Office for recommended planting dates for the specific area.)

FERTILIZATION: Apply 25-35 lbs/acre nitrogen as a starter fertilizer at planting. Lime soil to a pH of 6.0 – 6.5 and follow soil test recommendations for P & K.

METHOD: Plant when soil moisture is adequate. For summer plantings, do not plant when ambient temperatures are expected to be above the middle 90's. If weeds become problematic, periodically mow to reduce competition with the seedling bermuda. To further reduce weed competition, delay the application of fertilizers containing nitrogen until the bermuda seedlings have fully emerged.

BROADCAST: CLEAN-TILLED GROUND

- Prepare the ground well in advance. This allows the first flush of crabgrass and other weed competition to germinate and be killed by an application of a non-residual and non-selective herbicide like glyphosate before planting Sahara II.

- Clean-till the area with a disk, then level and smooth the area. Use a culti-packer to prepare a firm seedbed before planting. Several passes may be necessary to achieve proper firmness.
- Broadcast the seed and cultipack once more to get good seed to soil contact. Bermudagrass seed will not germinate in a fluffy, loose seedbed.

FOR NO-TILL DRILL

- Take added precaution to ensure seed are not dropping too deep; 1/8" or less is ideal. One method to prevent deep planting is to pull the drill's drop tubes out of the openers and let the seed fall behind the opener to be pressed into the loosened soil by the press wheel.
- Ensure that existing residue is not too thick for seedlings to emerge and that the seed is making good soil contact beneath the residue.

TO THICKEN EXISTING STANDS

If seed are to be broadcast, loosen the soil surface in the bare areas prior to seeding by scratching with a finger drag or by light disking. After seed are broadcasted, use a culti-packer or similar roller device to press the seed into the soil and to firm the ground. If using a no-till drill, see instructions for No-Till Drill.

MANAGEMENT

FOR FORAGE: Once plants begin to spread, apply 50-60 lbs. of nitrogen per acre. Delay grazing or hay cutting until forage is 6" to 8" tall. Do not graze or clip for hay shorter than 2". After the stand is established, apply 50-75 lbs. of nitrogen per acre for each cutting of hay. If grazed, apply up to 150 lbs/acre N annually in split applications beginning at spring green-up and again once or twice during summer. To help prevent winter injury, apply the last nitrogen fertilizer application a minimum of 6-8 weeks before a killing frost. Maintaining medium to high levels of phosphorus and potassium in the soil throughout the growing season is key to disease prevention and bermuda stand survival. If season ending soil levels are low, apply phosphorus and/or potassium fertilizer per soil test recommendation in late summer/early fall to help prevent winter injury. When grazed, rotate animals more often during periods of drought stress. Leave at least 4" of growth

entering winter. In first year bermuda, late cuttings of hay (6-8 weeks before a killing frost) and/or overseeding with winter annuals can weaken and potentially thin the stand. Once the bermuda is well established (2nd year and older stands), overseeding with winter annuals is acceptable.

FOR MAINTAINED AREAS: Delay 1st mowing until grass is 3 inches in height. After establishment, maintain grass at a height of 1.5 - 3 inches. Remove no more than 1/3 of the leaf area per mowing. Apply 3-5 lbs. Nitrogen/1000 sq. ft. (120 – 200 lbs./A) annually in split applications beginning at spring green-up and periodically during the summer months. Apply the last nitrogen fertilizer application a minimum of 8 weeks before a killing frost. Apply lime, phosphorus and potassium fertilizer per soil test recommendations.

