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Euro Grass News, October 2011

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Market

Need for Seed



The actual prices in many species are reflecting the general scarcities in the markets.

Unlike three years ago, when most seeds went sky high, there are some crops remaining that still show rather moderate price increments during the past months.

This shows, from my point of view, that the markets are less willing to speculate, but rather to observe whether supply and demand are well balanced, and thereafter to make a decision. Regarding the recent quick changes and current, partly disappointing, harvest results, it is likely that we will see additional upward price developments.

This leads us to a situation that, if the industry keeps its strategy of a

conservative production and stock management and, if the customer needs are known, even high price levels in the longer term will be healthy in order to obtain fair margins on all levels, and to secure the production that is necessary to furnish the demand of grass seed users all over the world.

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Info

Euro Grass Turf (EGT) Mixtures for DIY (Do It Yourself) Markets in Eastern Europe including Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine



Grass is not just grass. This statement applies especially for turf grasses. The different species will have different

characteristics and within the species, there will be several varieties which also have different characteristics. When composing mixtures for the DIY markets in Eastern Europe and Russia, it is important that the components are winter hardy and with a good tolerance of hot and dry conditions. By sowing mixtures instead of straights you will get a "broader" lawn with a broader range of usage.

EGT DIY East

The first criterion of being successful in "lawn making" is to choose the right mixture for the right purpose. The enclosed table, with a built in selection guide, provides information of the respective mixtures. Please read below for additional information, which, hopefully, will make it even easier to choose the right mixture.

EGT 130BE

"Classic" is designed as a multipurpose mixture. The winter hardiness is good

due to the high content of *Festuca rubra* and *Poa pratensis*. The same two species will ensure a relatively good performance under hot and dry conditions, and the *Festuca* will ensure a nice appearance. The shade tolerance is okay, but if shade is combined with hot and dry conditions, EGT 320BE would be a better choice.

EGT 230BE

"Ornamental" is designed with emphasis on good looking values (from all 3 species) and on winter hardiness (from *Festuca rubra* ssp. and *Poa pratensis*). The wear tolerance is relatively good due to the high content of *Poa pratensis* and *Lolium perenne*. EGT 230BE is our most popular mixture for ornamental lawns without too much wear.

EGT 320BE

"Shade" is designed for shady conditions, and due to its high content of *Festuca arundinacea* it also performs well under hot and dry conditions. It is our best mixture where shade is combined with hot and dry conditions. The winter hardiness is very good and the wear tolerance is relatively good, though it will not reach the level of EGT 420BE Sport.

EGT 420BE

"Sport" is, because of a very high content of *Poa pratensis* and *Lolium perenne*, very wear tolerant. These two species, together with *Festuca rubra* ssp., also ensures high esthetical values. The winter hardiness is good due to the content of *Poa pratensis* and *Festuca rubra* ssp.

EGT 510BE

"Renovation" is designed for renovation and reseeded where a quick result is required. The high content of *Lolium perenne* (fast germination) makes this mixture very wear tolerant very quickly. Due to the combination of varieties and species this mixture has also got some very nice esthetical values. The winter hardiness is not particularly good and it is not suitable for shade and hot and dry conditions.

Mixtures on demand can be made for very special purposes in 1 kg, 2,5 kg, 10 kg, and 25 kg bags. Minimum quantity per order and article will be 500 kg.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our dealers and customers good luck with our EGT DIY East program.

Euro Grass Turf (EGT) DIY East

Suitable for (3 = best)

EGT number	Mix	Species	Variety examples EGT Mixtures DIY - East	g seed per m ²	Cutting height mm	Notes	Box, kg	Paper bag, kg	Hard wearer conditions	Hot & Dry conditions	Shady conditions	Good looking requirements	Sport (wear tolerance)
EGT 130BE	Classic			30	20-50		1+2,5	10	3	2	2	2	1
	25 %	Lolium perenne	Libronco/Jubilee			• Good ground cover							
	70 %	Festuca rubra rubra	Jasperina			• Drought tolerant							
	5 %	Poa pratensis	Markus/Sobra			• Suitable for reduced mowing and for grasscrete systems							
EGT 230BE	Ornamental			25	15-25		1+2,5	10	3	2	2	3	2
	10 %	Lolium perenne	Turfgold/Jubilee			• Fine textured							
	20 %	Festuca rubra trichophylla	Celia/Libano			• Nice appearance							
	30 %	Festuca rubra commutata	Livista			• Good ground cover							
	20 %	Poa pratensis	Limerick			• Very suitable for fairways, ornamental lawns,							
	20 %	Poa pratensis	Markus			• parks, grasscrete systems, sod production, etc.							
EGT 320BE	Shade			30	40-100		1	10	3	3	3	1	2
	10 %	Lolium perenne	Turfgold			• Shade tolerant							
	20 %	Festuca rubra rubra	Jasperina			• Drought tolerant							
	70 %	Festuca arundinacea	Meandre/Miraculix/Tomahawk			• Suitable under trees and building shade							
EGT 420BE	Sport			25	15-35		1+2,5	10	2	2	1	3	3
	20 %	Lolium perenne	Turfgold			• Wear tolerant all-round mixture							
	20 %	Lolium perenne	Jubilee			• Fast recovery							
	10 %	Festuca rubra trichophylla	Celia			• Drought tolerant							
	10 %	Festuca rubra commutata	Livista			• Very suitable for all areas incurring wear							
	20 %	Poa pratensis	Limerick										
	20 %	Poa pratensis	Markus										
EGT 510BE	Renovation			10-50	15-30		1	10	1	1	1	2	3
	25 %	Lolium perenne	Turfgold			• Fast establishment							
	25 %	Lolium perenne	Jubilee			• Very hard wearing							
	25 %	Lolium perenne	Libronco			• Quick recovery from damages							
	15 %	Festuca rubra trichophylla	Celia			• Suitable for soccer, golf tees, tennis courts etc.							
	10 %	Festuca rubra commutata	Livista										

EGT 320BE Shade is, as well as shade, also very suitable for hot and dry conditions and for sport/wear. It might be wise to choose EGT 320BE rather than EGT 420BE for sports use, even though EGT 420BE is the more wear tolerant mixture of the two. Decision should be made after local conditions are taken into consideration.

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Products

MILK INDEX – what is new about it?



Milk Index is Euro Grass' brand for high forage quality. In recent years forage quality has become one of the main topics in breeding and marketing. Starting with ASTONENERGY Euro Grass developed several perennial ryegrass varieties which are above average in forage quality.

This year Euro Grass makes one step further again. We extended our forage quality activities to other grass species and identified PRESTO, timothy, and LITONIO, Italian ryegrass. With ASTONENERGY, ASTONPRINCESS, ASTON-AMBER, FORNIDO, ZOCALO and SURES we increased also the number of high forage quality varieties in perennial ryegrass.

means detailed variety information with official testing results, how MILK INDEX works and what the farmer's benefit is. We will use this information to enforce our marketing for top farms in milk and beef production. So in Germany COUNTRY Energy 2027 Milk Index, grassland mixture just with high forage quality varieties, is already one of the strongest grassland mixtures in the market.



At www.eurograss.com you will find the whole story about MILK INDEX: that

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■ Products

ASTONENERGY – unbeatable in forage quality



Since 2006/07, when ASTONENERGY was first recommended, it is the best perennial ryegrass in forage quality in England

and Wales in its segment. This is true for forage quality under the simulated grazing and conservation management. Indeed looking at digestibility under both managements ASTONENERGY is the most digestible variety available in any segment.

With research suggesting that a 1 unit increase in D value can result in a 5 % improvement in animal performance provided forage supply is not limited, ASTONENERGY can significantly improve production from grass.

So ASTONENERGY is really an outstanding intermediate, tetraploid perennial ryegrass.

The strength of ASTONENERGY is the high sugar content combined with a high digestibility of the organic matter.



Official tests in Germany underline the British results, so ASTONENERGY could be an interesting variety for the whole of Europe where the weather conditions are not too harsh and top forage for high milk or beef production is needed.

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	1st silage cut Dvalue (minus 65)	2nd silage cut Dvalue (minus 65)	Mid season grazing Dvalue (minus 65)
Mean of G varieties	6.1	8.2	11.7
Int tet mean standard	6.0	7.8	11.4
AstonEnergy	9.1	11.6	13.5
	+3.1	+3.8	+2.1

Source: Herbage Varieties Guide Recommended List 2011/12 for England and Wales

■ Products

Benefit from the international COUNTRY experiences

There are several very good reasons for growing COUNTRY-mixtures. We asked a number of farmers throughout Europe to tell us their experiences with COUNTRY. Practical feedback about COUNTRY-mixtures under different climatic conditions or growing manage-

ment is always useful. First we started with farmers from Germany, Poland and Hungary, but in future we want to build up an international COUNTRY network to make the advantages and strengths of COUNTRY visible. All reports are available at www.eurograss.com.



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