Rebound Forage Millet

*Echinochloa utilis*

Rebound Millet is a very fast growing, high yielding leafy plant for either grazing or hay. Rebound provides palatable feed of good quality. A feature of this plant is its very rapid growth during the first 8-10 weeks. In this period it far out-yields other fodder crops. Typically Rebound sown in early November can be grazed about 6 weeks later (mid-late December). Rebound is a useful feed supplement during the hot summer months when the growth of permanent pasture may suffer. Regrowth of Rebound following grazing is very good if soil moisture and nitrogen levels are sufficient.

- Fast growing summer grass
- Safe, good quality palatable feed
- Ideal in hot summer and high temperature regions
- Fast regrowth after grazing or cutting
- Combines well with other summer active varieties such as Red Clover or Brassica
- Plant on 14°C and rising soil temperature
Seed agronomy table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan</td>
<td>9 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min Rainfall (mm)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeding Rate</td>
<td>Kg/Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryland</td>
<td>10-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Rainfall / Irrigation</td>
<td>30-40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blends using this Seed

Summer Feed Blend

Enterprises this seed is being used for

- Sheep
- Beef Cattle
- Horse
- Hay & Silage
- Viti & Horti

Strengths

- Annual Summer grass.
- Can be drilled into moist soil.
- Good emergence from depth, to 50 mm.
- Relatively easy to establish on black cracking-clay soils.
- Vigorous seedlings.
- High growth rate.
- Salt tolerant.
- Suitable for silage or hay.
- Does not contain prussic acid (HCN).

Limitations

- Needs moderate to high fertility.
- Sowing should occur once soil temps are >14°C and rising.
- Seedlings slow in early stage below 20°C.
- Intolerant of waterlogging.
- Does not tolerate frosts.
Plant Description

**Plant:** A robust, multi-stemmed annual grass.

**Stems:** Stems erect, 150-300 cm long, 10-20 mm diameter. Nodes are bearded and slightly swollen.

**Leaves:** Ligule is a fringe of hairs. Leaf-blades are flat, 50-100 cm long and 8-70 mm wide.

**Seedhead:** Seedhead is a compact, cylindrical spike-like panicle.

**Seeds:** Wedge-shaped seeds are 3-4 mm long and colour depends on variety. About 187,000 seeds/kg.

Pasture type and use

It is used as an annual summer forage crop for cattle or sheep.

Where it grows

**Rainfall:** Rainfall greater than 500 mm/year and soil moisture stored during fallow are required for satisfactory forage crop production.

**Soils:** It is adapted to fertile loams to heavy cracking clays.

**Temperature:** It grows during the warm season and tops are killed by heavy frost.

Establishment

**Companion species:** Legumes: lablab, cowpea, red clover.

**Sowing/planting rates as single species:** 10-40 kg/Ha.

**Sowing/planting rates in mixtures:** 3-7 kg/Ha.

**Sowing time:** It is sown from spring to late summer.

**Fertiliser:** Fertiliser application of 15-20 kg/Ha P, 50-100 kg/Ha N and 50-100 kg/Ha K, if grown for hay, may be used to produce satisfactory forage crops.

Management

**Maintenance fertiliser:** 100 kg N/ha after grazing will increase late season production.

**Grazing/cutting:** Millet should not be grazed until plants are well anchored, 20-30cm is the rule of thumb. Under ideal conditions this can be as quick as 6 weeks. Graze regularly to restrict plant from going to head. As plant matures feed quality reduces.

**Ability to spread:** There is little chance of spread.

**Weed potential:** It has negligible weed potential.

**Major pests:** Helicoverpa spp. can damage developing heads and should be controlled in seed crops.

**Major diseases:** Head mould and ergot can reduce seed yield.

**Herbicide susceptibility:** It is killed by glyphosate.
Animal production

**Feeding value:** Forage quality depends on soil type and fertility, fertilisers applied, rainfall and age of the crop.

**Palatability:** Reduced palatability is sometimes observed in droughted crops.

**Livestock disorders/toxicity:** No known problems except unpalatability in some droughted crops.