

## Forage Varieties for West Virginia

Ed Rayburn, Extension Specialist  
March 2014

---

The following variety list is based on trials conducted in Kentucky and Pennsylvania over the last 12 years. The varieties listed performed better than the average commercial varieties in multiple multi-year trials. The two right-hand columns list where varieties were tested and if they ranked high for yield or persistence.

Alfalfa varieties are not listed in this table. There are many improved alfalfa varieties. When picking one visit with your local seed dealer and pick one based on good resistance to diseases.

When choosing seed, managers should only buy and use certified seed of known improved varieties. They should not purchase or use seed labeled “variety not stated” or “VNS”. A good example of this is shown with Kenland red clover in the *2009 Long-Term Summary of Kentucky Forage Variety Trials* (Univ. KY PR-600). Across 21 multi-year trials, certified Kenland red clover yielded 9 percent greater than the average of all certified red clover varieties entered in the same trials. This shows that Kenland is a good improved variety. In the trials where non-certified Kenland red clover seed was entered, certified Kenland had 35 percent greater yield than the non-certified Kenland seed. This shows that an improved variety using certified seed gave a greater response than non-certified seed of the same variety. Purchasing non-certified seed is a very poor investment and an example of the old saying of “being penny wise and pound foolish.” Given all the cost involved in growing pasture or hay crops, saving a few dollars by buying non-certified or “variety not stated” seed is a bad investment. This is especially so when planting long-lived forage species such as orchardgrass, tall fescue, smooth brome grass, timothy, and reed canarygrass.

Some old varieties are still holding up in terms of yield and persistence. These include Potomac orchardgrass, Climax timothy and Johnstone tall fescue. Given the new varieties, these are not the best but are still better than some of the not-so-good new varieties.

Forage Varieties Adapted to West Virginia.

Recommended Varieties	KY trials	PA trials
<b>Kentucky bluegrass</b>		
Barderby	yield	
Ginger	yield	
Kenblue	yield	
Lato	yield	
<b>Orchardgrass</b>		
Albert	yield	
Ambrosia		yield
Athos	yield	
Benchmark +	yield & persistence	yield
Boone	yield & persistence	
Bounty	yield	yield
Century	yield	
Crown	yield	
Crown Royal +	yield & persistence	
Extend		yield
Hallmark	yield & persistence	
Haymate	yield	yield
Icon	yield	yield
Mammoth	yield	
Megabite	yield	
Olympia		yield
Pennlate		yield
Persist	yield	yield
Potomac	yield & persistence	
Prairie	yield & persistence	
Profile	persistence	
Takena	yield	yield
Takena II	yield	yield
Udder	yield	yield
<b>Red clover</b>		
Cinnamon	yield	
Cinnamon+	yield	
Freedom	yield	
Freedom MR	yield	
Impact	yield	
Kenland	yield	
Kenstar	yield	
Kenton	yield	
Kenway	yield	
Plus	yield	
Plus II	yield	
Rocket	yield	
Rojo Diablo	yield	
Starfire II	yield	

Forage Varieties Adapted to West Virginia. (continued)

Recommended Varieties	KY trials	PA trials
<b>Reed Canarygrass</b>		
Lana		yield
Marathon		yield
<b>Smooth brome grass</b>		
Baylor		yield
Peak		yield
Saratoga		yield
York		yield
<b>Tall fescue</b>		
Barolex		
BarOptima+E34		
Bronson		yield
Bull	yield	yield
Festival	yield & persistence	
Festorina	persistence	
Hoedown	yield	
Jesup EF	persistence	
Jesup Max Q	yield & persistence	yield
Johnstone	yield & persistence	yield
Maximize		yield
Select	yield & persistence	yield
Stockman	yield	yield
Tuscany		yield
<b>Timothy</b>		
Barfleo		yield
Barliza		yield
Clair	yield	yield
Climax	yield	yield
Colt	yield	
Crest		yield
Derby	yield	yield
Richmond	yield	
Summit		yield
Talon	yield	yield
Timpro		yield
Treasure	yield	

Forage Varieties Adapted to West Virginia. (continued)

Recommended Varieties	KY trials	PA trials
	<b>White clover</b>	
Advantage	yield	
Barblanca	persistence	
Ca ladino	yield	
Colt	persistence	
Crescendo	yield	
Durana	yield & persistence	
Ivory	persistence	
Kopu II	persistence	
Patriot	yield & persistence	
Pinnacle	yield	
Regal	yield	
RegalGraze	yield	
Resolute	persistence	
Will	yield & persistence	