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HOOD RIVER SEED NEWS

Summer Annuals

Introducing **HRS 303PM Pearl Millet**

After several months of colder than normal temperatures and more snow than I've personally seen in southern Indiana in a long time, perhaps spring has finally arrived. This past weekend it hit 70 degrees and as I look at the 10 day forecast, it is showing highs in the 50's and 60's all 10 days. Maybe our farmers can finally get down to the business of planting their early spring forages. However, summer temperatures will also be here before we know it. The least productive time for most producers' cool season grass pastures is from July through September. Growth of cool season grasses is very slow during that time. The quality has lessened and the effect of toxic endophyte infected tall fescue is at its worst. It is very difficult to get good performance from livestock during this period without supplemental feeding. One of the best and most cost effective ways which producers can offset the low production in pastures during this time is by using summer annuals such as pearl millet, sorghum-sudan or sudan hybrids. They can provide a large quantities of high quality forage during this period of the year. One concern that many have had over using sudangrass or sorghum-sudan is that of prussic acid poisoning. This can potentially have a deadly affect on livestock. This can be overcome by utilizing rotational grazing; however, most producers are not willing or are not equipped to do this. Pearl millet, on the other hand does **not** have the potential for prussic acid poisoning, thus producers do not need to utilize rotational grazing or worry about grazing after a frost to take advantage of its benefits. Along with having excellent productivity during the summer months, **HRS 303PM** also has the advantage of the Brown Mid Rib trait which reduces the lignin content, greatly improving the palatability and digestibility of the forage. **HRS 303PM** is also very late maturity giving producers a longer harvest or grazing window and insuring maximum quality throughout the growing season.

Please take a look at the enclosed **HRS 303PM** tech sheet. If you have interest or questions regarding this product or how to best utilize it, please give me a call.



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