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Recommendations for Hay and Haylage Seedlings in Virginia

Species	Seeding Rate (lb/acre)	Soil Adaptation	Management Tips
Alfalfa Orchardgrass	15-20 3-7	Fertile, well drained soils with pH > 6.5	Cut when alfalfa is bud to early bloom stage. Allow at least one harvest to reach early bloom. Take first cutting when alfalfa is in bud stage.
Alfalfa	18-25	Fertile, well drained soils with pH > 6.5	Cut when alfalfa is bud to early bloom stage. Allow at least one harvest to reach early bloom. Take first cutting when alfalfa in bud stage.
Alfalfa and Matua bromegrass or Timothy or Smooth bromegrass	12-15 and 10-15 or 4-6 or 10-12	Fertile, well drained soils with pH > 6.5	Timothy and smooth bromegrass provide little forage after first cutting; best adapted west of Blue Ridge; avoid cutting during stem elongation to insure persistence. Smooth bromegrass is more drought tolerant than Timothy. Allow > 45 days between cuttings in late summer to allow Matua bromegrass to reseed.
Red clover and Orchardgrass or Tall fescue (E-)*	5-8 and 8-12 or 8-12	Moderately to poorly drained soils not suitable to alfalfa with pH > 6.0	Cut when grass is in boot stage. Red clover may not persist beyond 2-3 years. Thus one should interseed every 2-3 years to maintain red clover component.
Tall fescue (E-)*	20-25	All types of soils with pH > 5.8.	Take first cutting before head emergence; subsequent cuttings every 30-40 days; does not produce seedheads after first harvest.
Matua bromegrass	20-30	Any fertile soil.	Cut in boot stage. Allow > 45 days between cuttings in late summer to allow reseeding.
Timothy or Smooth bromegrass	6-8 or 15-25	Light to medium-textured soils with at least moderate drainage.	Cut in boot stage to early heading. Avoid cutting during stem elongation. Timothy will not persist in southern Piedmont or Coastal Plain; limited production after first cutting in most of state. Smooth bromegrass is more drought tolerant.
Orchardgrass	10-15	Light to medium-textured soils with at least moderate drainage	First cutting at boot to early bloom stage. Subsequent regrowth will be vegetative and can be harvested every 30-40 days.
Reed canarygrass	6-8	Very tolerant of flooding and poorly drained soils. Also most drought tolerant of cool-season grasses. Tolerates pH of 5 to 8.	Cut during stem elongation to boot. Coarse at later maturity. Slow initial establishment; fills in with time from rhizome spread.
Switchgrass or Eastern Gamagrass	7-10 PLS** or 8-10 PLS**	Any deep soil. Good flooding tolerance	Cut in boot stage. Coarse at later maturity. Slow initial establishment fills in with time from rhizome spread in switchgrass, and crown widening in gamagrass.

*E+= High endophyte

*E-=Low endophyte

**PLS = pure live seed