

Elstel Farm & Seeds

“The Crabgrass Seed Folks”

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Fact Sheet 2007

‘Quick-N- Big’ Crabgrass Variety

This fact sheet announces the first season availability of a new variety (cultivar) of forage crabgrass. It is named “Quick-N-Big” because , compared to the Red River Crabgrass variety, it germinates quicker, grows quicker, reaches grazing stage or hay stage or maturity stage quicker, and is a bigger and taller plant. Simple as that! The species is: *Digitaria aegyptica*. QNB is readily identified in the field compared to other crabgrasses.

The following summary provides more specific details of Quick-N-Big (QNB) variety. All statements and comparisons are relative to Red River Crabgrass (RRCG) , the only other researched and released crabgrass variety. It is essentially impossible to make specific comparisons to “common” or “native” crabgrass because those plants vary enormously in both species and phenotype. The QNB information following essentially starts with the seed and progresses to the mature plant.

The seed is about 117 % larger by weight, the same length, and about 110% wider. Field germination of the same age seed is quicker by up to 3 to 7 days. QNB seed breaks dormancy sooner than RRCG. There remains a surplus dormant seed amount for next season’s volunteer stands. Early seedling growth is quicker with QNB often reaching 3 to 8 in. tall when RRCG seedlings are about 1 to 2 in. tall. At 28 to 35 days post-plant , under good growing condition, QNB has averaged being 166 % taller , or up to 16 in. tall when RRCG was 7 in. tall.

The leaf of QNB has averaged 140 % wider and 136 % longer that RRCG. The widest leaf measured **in research** has been 0.55 inches for QNB and 0.43 inches for RRCG

with QNB being 140 % wider than RRCG. Clients have told us that they measured leaf width of 0.75 inches on QNB. The flag leaf width of QNB has averaged 200 % that of RRCG. Color of the leaf and general plant field aspect is darker green for QNB than RRCG where they are both grown under good, fertile conditions. Stem size of QNB has averaged 172 % larger diameter than RRCG. **That helps the plant to stand erect at a taller height than RRCG.** However, both varieties are lush type forages with a soft pliable stem, and both will “weep” or lodge if allowed to grow too tall for grazing or haying. Leaf to stem ratios are excellent for both varieties. Height of QNB has ranged 150 % to 240 % taller than RRCG at the same stage or age of growth. QNB is an erect and runner (stolon) type crabgrass, but RRCG is more of a runner type. QNB has great tillering ability given the chance. See Fact Sheet 2009.

The seed head of QNB has averaged being 175 % to 189 % larger than RRCG. It will make sufficient seed to perpetuate the variety.

Five plot year average forage yields showed QNB to yield 111 % of RRCG. During years of good management when QNB was harvested more properly, it produced up to 23 % and 24 % more than RRCG.

The percent crude protein (% CP) content of the two varieties has averaged relatively close and similar under good nitrogen fertility. Overall full season averages showed QNB crabgrass to be 14.4 % CP with a range of 11.0 % CP to 18.7 % CP while RRCG was 15.4 % CP with a range of 10.0 % CP to 18.5 % CP. **Remember---% crude protein is really nothing more than dilution of nitrogen supply and growth volume.** If you, the grower, want higher protein content in your crabgrass forage, then it takes more nitrogen, from somewhere, and / or a younger grazing or haying stage.

Other Summary Comments: Based on the wide range of growing conditions QNB was subjected to in Oklahoma, it is believed this major adaptation will be the same 23 to 25 most SE states of the US. It is adapted to the same soil type ranges. Plus, we expect it to grow under irrigation throughout the western half of the US as does RRCG. It may grow well farther north in adaptation ranges. QNB has the same overall uses as RRCG. It may be a bit more suited to legume mixtures as it can be a bit more open growth. QNB may stockpile a bit better.

QUICK-N-BIG CRABGRASS IS A PROPRIETARY VARIETY OF ELSTEL FARM AND SEEDS. SEED IS AVAILABLE ONLY FROM ELSTEL FARM AND SEEDS AND COOPERATING DEALERS.

Twelve other **CRABGRASS MANAGEMENT FACT SHEETS** are available on request.

