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Fact Sheet 2007 : 'Quick-N- Big®' Crabgrass --A New Forage Crabgrass Variety

This fact sheet announces the first season availability of a new variety (cultivar) of forage crabgrass. It is named "Quick-N-Big®" Crabgrass(QNBCG) because , compared to the Red River Crabgrass (RRCG) variety, it germinates quicker, grows quicker, reaches grazing stage or hay stage or maturity stage quicker by 2 or more weeks, and is a bigger and taller plant. Simple as that! Research work for QNBCG was started when R.L. was employed with Noble Foundation , and then after some time after retirement , the work was completed to release the variety.

The following summary provides more specific details of Quick-N-Big® Crabgrass variety. All statements and comparisons are relative to Red River Crabgrass , 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 (physical type) and season of growth.. The QNBCG 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. QNBCG seed breaks dormancy sooner than RRCG. There remains a surplus dormant seed . or slower germination seed , amount for next season's volunteer stands in our experience. Early seedling growth is quicker , with QNBCG often reaching 3 to 8 in. tall when RRCG seedlings that are emerged are about 1 to 2 in. tall. At 28 to 35 days post-plant , under good growing condition, QNBCG has averaged being 166 % taller , or up to 16 in. tall when RRCG was 7 in. tall , or QNBCG was over twice as tall as RRCG at those times.

The leaf of QNB has averaged 140 % wider and 136 % longer that RRCG under direct comparable cases.. The widest leaf measured **in research** has been 0.62 inches for QNBCG and 0.43 inches for RRCG with QNB being 44 % wider that RRCG. Clients

have told us that they measured leaf width of 0.75 inches on QNBCG. The flag leaf width of QNBCG has averaged 200 % that of RRCG. That likely has something to do with quicker early and faster growth.

Color of the leaf and general plant field aspect is darker green for QNBCG than RRCG where they are both grown under good , fertile conditions. Stem size of QNBCG 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 , especially if it is a moist season and the growth is more lush. Leaf to stem ratios are excellent for both varieties. Height of QNBCG has ranged 150 % to 240 % taller than RRCG at the same stage or age of growth. QNBCG is an erect , profusely tillering (stooling) grass with a few runners (stolon) in a stand where space allows runners to form. RRCG is more of a runner type in a sufficiently open stand. QNBCG has great tillering ability given the chance. Primary tillers often re-sprout more tillers at the nodes (joints) on the main stem, and those added tillers can number from 1 to 4 per main stem. See Fact Sheet 2009.

The seed head of QNBCG 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 QNBCG 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. Due to the rapid growing nature of QNBCG it is easy to let it get “too big” before a grazing or hay cutting. That slows recovery and re-growth. **QNBCG usually out yields RRCG considerably during the first half of summer.** And, if management for grazing and hay is good for the taller grass, it re-grows very well the second half of summer as well.

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 QNBCG 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: This Fact Sheet is being updated in 2014. Based on the wide range of growing conditions QNBCG has shown it grows well in the major adaptation of 23 to 25 most SE states of the US as does RRCG . It is adapted to the same soil type ranges and may grow a bit better on finer textured soils and farther to the north.. We expect it to grow under irrigation throughout the western half of the US as does RRCG. It has shown it can grow well as far north at southern North Dakota , Idaho, and

Colorado, as examples. QNBCG has the same overall uses as RRCG.

QNBCG may be a bit more suited to legume and other mixtures as it can be a bit more open growth if planted at the lower recommended seeding rates.

QNBCG may stockpile a bit better since it has a larger stem size which help hold it up better.

QNBCG survived and produced in Western Oklahoma as well as, and better than RRCG , in the very hot , dry , hostile summers of 2006, 2011 , and 2012.

QUICK-N-BIG® CRABGRASS IS A PROPRIETARY VARIETY OF DALRYMPLE FARMS, dba “ELSTEL FARM AND SEEDS”. SEED IS AVAILABLE ONLY FROM DALRYMPLE FARMS, AND COOPERATING SEED DEALERS WHO RETAIL SELL THE SEED.