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**Fact Sheet 2008 ; The New 'Quick-N-Big®' Crabgrass Variety---
A Followup**

The year 2005 was the first year Quick-N-Big® Crabgrass (QNBCG) was grown in field size plantings, and 2006 was the first year 'Quick-N-Big' (QNB) crabgrass was available for public field plantings. This year 2008 was the fourth year it had been grown in field size plantings on DALRYMPLE FARM . During these years the grass was subjected to a range of among the driest and hottest of summer seasons (2006) to among the best we can expect in western Oklahoma (2007). The 2007 year had some short dry times, but considering all of summer, it was one of the best for growing grass that can be in the 26 inch rainfall belt of Dalrymple Farm location. 2007 was possibly the best growing weather summer of R. L.s lifetime. These ranges in season's provide information for other regions.

The year 2008 marks the 14th year we have provided a Crabgrass Management Fact Sheet for our clients and forage researchers. It is the 17th year we have provided 'Red River' Crabgrass (RRCG) seed to grass producers of the USA. We continue to emphasize high quality Red River Certified Seed along with the newer variety 'Quick-N-Big®' Crabgrass (QNBCG) . Dalrymple Farms is pleased and content to have helped put a blanket on a bit of Mother Earth during these years, and to be of service to grassland producers of the USA. Plans are to be of service many more years.

The 2007 season helped Quick-N-Big Crabgrass live up to it's name. To repeat: It was named "**Quick-N-Big**" Crabgrass because it has the genetics to **GERMINATE QUICK**, has **QUICK SEEDING GROWTH** to first grazing or haying time, and **RE-GROWS QUICK** , if managed properly , and can get **very big for a crabgrass** , again--if it is managed properly. It has **BIG** leaves and grows **BIG** if allowed to continue growing. The grass can grow very fast for a crabgrass , up to 2 to 3 inches per day under good conditions, after it is well tillered. When harvesting the mid-summer crop in 2007, much of the grass measured an average of 43 inches tall, with the tallest spots on good fine sandy loam being up to 58 inches tall (nearly 5 feet tall). All of this was free

standing without being held up in any way. This testifies to its ability. But, this **is not the height** to go for in managing the forage aspects of the variety for grazing or hay. This height is too tall for usual grazing or haying (see below), but it shows the genetic potential of the grass's production.

When the grass is allowed to get too tall before grazing or haying, it shades the lower leaves too much. This causes the lower leaf to yellow and die. Then when the grass is grazed or cut for hay, that leaves a naked, "tooth pick" stem. That then causes very slow re-growth, and plant stem death if it does not rain immediately. So, what should the manager do??

As with RRCG, grazing should be started when the pasture is a minimum of 4 to 6 inches tall. Rotation Graze!! Just "top it off". Re-grazings should be done when the plants are six to 12 inches tall, or up to 18 inches tall at maximum, during lush conditions, and when there is **still green leaves on the lower stem**.

Haying or cutting for silage should be done when the plants are 18 to 36 inches tall and when there is **still green leaves on the bottom of the stems and mostly green heads on the stems**. Do not wait for the maximum growth height---unless it is **only a one cut per summer situation**. Cut to leave a lot of green leaf on the lower.

When the QNBCG is cut or grazed, the field should still have a green cast (look) to it, indicating that there is a lot of lower leaf on the stubble to generate new growth. **Leave a 3 to 6 inch stubble** to accomplish this, until the last grazing or haying, **then be free to take it as short as practical---**to the ground, so to speak. When managed as above, the grass re-growth and total production is good.

For a continuous style of grazing, set the stocking rate to gradually graze the forage over many weeks. For **well fertilized QNBCG on dry land, in a good summer season**, this could be from 800 to 1200 pounds of cattle weight per acre.

One exception to the above haying comments pertains to when the manager wants to accumulate **one massive hay cutting or silage cutting**, and is not interested in good re-growth. In that case, just let it grow to maximum growth, full green seed head, then cut it short one time, and **do not expect good re-growth in this case**.

In summary—QNBCG is a robust, productive, tall type of crabgrass. It tillers profusely, and has a few runners in open stands, but not many. It can get too tall, for good re-growth management, before grazing or haying. Using the plant then can cause more suppression than usual or good. **THINK AHEAD!** QNBCG can be ready to hay today and be too tall 3 to 5 days later. It can be harvested well then, but the extra growth at harvest can lead to added re-growth suppression.

Management of fertilization, weed control, and volunteer stands is much like that for RRCG. Please refer to those Fact Sheets.

QNBCG has adequate seed dormancy to generate volunteer stands the next year. We have always gotten good volunteer stands. However, a lot of germination of new seed dropped to the ground in July and August, can occur the year of drop with good thunderstorms. This more so than with RRCG. RRCG has high seed dormancy and slow germination seed all summer the summer of the seed crop. There is still an advantage to using AGED seed of QNBCG when possible, but it does not appear as critical as with RRCG. Speed of germination is very quick with QNBCG compared to other crabgrasses of the same age seed. It is best to get some late summer seed drop on QNBCG to assure carry over of seed for next springs volunteer stands. **Having some seed germinate the summer of seed fall is not all bad.** QNBCG seed that germinates in July and August can grow crabgrass to near a foot tall, and **it is of the quality of fall wheat pasture**, and thus contributes to pasture or hay quality and yield in that time.

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