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*dba "Elstel Farm and Seeds"  
"The Crabgrass Seed Folks"*

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## **Fact Sheet 2012-2013: 'Quick-N-Big®' Crabgrass and 'Red River' Crabgrass Management Thoughts.**

**"Made in the USA"**. Dalrymple Farms people like to see that on things bought. 'Quick-N-Big®' Crabgrass ( QNBCG ) and 'Red River' Crabgrass ( RRCG ) are produced , cleaned , bagged , tested , and provided in the **"Great ol' USA."**

Part of why Dalrymple's do what we do is because of the good people of the rural agricultural persuasion. One stockman called and said, " You have been really good to our cows". That made Dalrymple Farms day. Another wrote, "Our QNBCG is 5 to 6 inches tall and our other grass is about 1 inch tall". That was good to hear.

2011 was ironic , it was a year of upper level demand for QNBCG and RRCG seeds, and seeds could be provided because prior seasons allowed adequate production . 2011 was **also the driest year, and driest summer** , and **hottest summer** in Dalrymple Farm production area since weather records began about **115 years ago**. So , there was little production in 2011 for 2012 seed supply and future plantings. But, it was still a year to observe and learn. A tribute to QNBCG is that even with that dry season , it did make some , but little production , whereas RRCG did not make any seed production and no really functional grazing . **While both varieties are very good , proven , forage varieties , QNBCG showed it was capable of making bits of growth on light showers to finally make a small forage growth useful for grazing or a poor seed harvest , whereas RRCG made little forage for grazing and essentially no seed.**

The main reason most stockman use these crabgrass forages is : **First, they are high quality forages for the summer season**, and they are good for winter annual and summer double cropping systems , and they are good and additive in numerous cool season and warm season mixtures. Actually, QNBCG and RRCG , because of their own differences, are **good mixtures in themselves** . A mix of half and half of each , or up to 2/3 QNBCG , seems to work well in Dalrymple Farms experience.

Many customers have asked if these grasses can be planted from a “small seed box “ ,or “legume box”, on various drills. QNBCG is a **smoother seed** than RRCG and Dalrymple Farms knew from client feedback that QNBCG flowed through these boxes , and that flow-ability is actually one of the advantages of the variety.

But , RRCG has a rougher husk and with a bit of “peach fuzz” on it and that causes flow ability difficulty and it would not flow well , if at all ,out of these boxes. Dalrymple Farms does not know of any of these types of modern seed boxes that has a mechanical agitator in the box like was usual in legume seed boxes in the earlier times. However , by adding only partial boxes full , and with someone riding the drill and continually stirring the seed , customers report the RRCG will reluctantly flow out of these seed boxes.

Dalrymple Farms has **planted many times of both QNBCG and RRCG varieties from the grain box (wheat seed box ) on drills by mixing the seed in dry fertilizer, or other free flowing bulk such as cracked grain , clean sand, or dry chicken feed.** Refer to Fact Sheet 1994-1997 for more information on this system of planting.

During 2012 Dalrymple Farms installed a “pre-owned” small seed box( legume seed box) on our John Deere 8350 Series drill . The drill has 8 inch row spacing and all of our QNBCG of 2012 was planted with it using the “new” small seedbox. It worked great!! The drill is a **double disk opener drill with depth control wheels on the openers**, so planting depth could be easily and precisely controlled to a proper very shallow depth of 0 to ½ inch.

Dalrymple Farms did a lot of calibration work, for ourselves , and hopefully that effort may be helpful to others using any “small seed box “equipped planter .

**First and foremost , always measure the flute feeding setting from the inside** of the box . **Do not** depend on the outside of the box setting levers and setting numbers as there is much variation in the preciseness needed for such small amounts of crabgrass seed used. Dalrymple Farms **measures all settings by the 1/16 inch , or part thereof , inside the seedbox.** To measure , use a small , 6-inch , flexible , plastic ruler , and measure from the non-fluted (smooth ) part of the seed feeder wheel , out to the end of the flute visible **inside the box.** Cut the end off the ruler so the **end is absolute zero** to start the measure.

Using clean QNBCG seed --here is what Dalrymple Farms found : **On average , the “in the barn “ calibration showed that 1/16 inch setting on the flute sticking out into the seed box , equaled 0.94 net pounds of seed per acre( or very close to 1 pound) . In Dalrymple Farm actual field experience , the overall result in all plantings was 1.0 net pounds of seed per acre per 1/16 inch flute measure inside the seed box. The range per field was from 0.8 to 1.1 net pounds per acre per 1/16 inch flute setting.**

**That is in good tolerance for plantings of QNBCG crabgrass variety. To plant 5 pounds net weight seed per acre , then set the flute to 5/16 inch setting. Overall, the in barn calibration and the field planting experience, showed Dalrymple Farms small seed box setting of 1/16 inch flute sticking out inside the box to be very close to 1 pound of QNBCG net seed per acre with the 8350 John Deere drill and 8 inch row spacing. Maybe , this may be a good example for others to start with using their own drill—no matter what the brand and model.**

Another related item is lbs. per bushel of seed. No seed drill planting charts contain settings for crabgrass seed. The choice is to select a seed on the chart as near possible of similar weight per bushel and physical condition.

Many years ago , Dalrymple Farms determined that **clean** RRCG seed averaged about 27 to 28 pounds per bushel. There are now two varieties with some seed differences , and Dalrymple Farms has re-measured seed weights to get more modern data. Information gathered to date , shows that **very clean QNBCG averages 34 to 35 lbs. per bushel , and very clean RRCG seed averaged 27 lbs. per bushel , the same as before.**

Crabgrass forage quality has been recognized many times in Dalrymple Farms information. **Forage quality is chemical , palatability , and physical characteristics, etc. , all in one consideration as is possible.** Forage (pasture and hay ) is not just chemical, i e, % crude protein and % total digestible nutrients (TDN ). For example, these high quality grasses have tasty, and soft , pliable , edible stems . Stockmen often comment on how much stem livestock eat in the pasture , and in the hay. There is nearly none left.

Several years ago , Dalrymple Farms gathered some information on chemical quality of some very good RRCG pasture. **The whole plant , the leaf , and the stem averaged : 24 , 27, and 18 % CP, and respectively , 65 , 67 , and 58 % TDN. While the stem is lower in CP and TDN , as it should be, the stem is still reasonably good forage chemical quality and palatable. Palatability is relative good taste, coupled with physical characteristics of the forage , that makes the forage easy to consume. The crabgrass's are a soft forage that is easy for livestock to consume.**

Some people live in areas that produce crops susceptible to usual herbicides used for weed control in grass pastures and hay . **“Chaparral” herbicide may be a choice.** It is a wettable powder , and does not volatilize ( evaporate ) like 2 ,4-D and many other post emergence herbicides. Dalrymple Farms has used Chaparral for several years near peanuts , soybeans , cotton , and other susceptible vegetation , and “no problems”. Please understand--- spraying was on days with the correct kind of conditions for spraying. Weed kill results were much as expected for 2 , 4-D, to slightly less control.

Also refer to other Fact Sheets, Dalrymple Farm web:redrivercrabgrass.com, and web:noble.org and search for crabgrass information.