



Reed Canarygrass

Phalaris arundinacea

Reed canarygrass is a cool season perennial that forms clumps of sod. It can spread by seed or rhizomes. It is used for erosion control and is excellent at stabilizing waterways and the shorelines of ponds. However, it must be used in contained sites due to its invasiveness. Cultivars of variegated reed canarygrass have been selected for use as ornamentals.¹



Land preparation

Prepare a firm and level seedbed. Plant at a depth of ¼ – ½ inch. Tolerates a wide range of pH (4.9-8.2).² Germination can take up to two weeks.

Seeding rate

14 lb/ac.³
10-14 lb/ac⁴ at \$2.75/lb.⁵
These rates are on the high side because many seed lots have low germination. Reed canarygrass can be mixed with legumes such as alfalfa.²

Seeding date

Early spring and late summer.²
Avoid planting during hot summer weather.

Seed sources

American Seed Company, Ernst Seed Company.

Maintenance

Mow, the growth peak is in mid-June.⁶

Control

Control by burning. The Rodeo formulation of glyphosate is reported to be effective at controlling reed canarygrass.⁶

Tips

Plan ahead for the invasive nature of this cover crop, considering both containment and ultimate control. Reed canarygrass can out-compete native grasses in wetland habitats.

References:

¹[www.wikipedia.org/Reed canarygrass](http://www.wikipedia.org/Reed%20canarygrass)

²www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/livestock

³[www.pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs Agronomy Facts 26](http://www.pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/Agronomy%20Facts%2026)

⁴Ernst Seed catalog www.ernstseed.com/Catalog/Grass

⁵American Seed Company catalog

www.americanseedco.com

Disclaimer

This fact sheet reflects the current (and past) authors' best effort to interpret a complex body of scientific research, and to translate this into practical management options. Following the guidance provided in this fact sheet does not assure compliance with any applicable law, rule, regulation, or standard, or the achievement of particular discharge levels from agricultural land.

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For more information



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