

TRICAL® Forage Triticale

TRICAL® 2700 Forage

Spring Planted

TRICAL® 2700 is a widely adapted, highly versatile triticale for grazing, silage, and boot-stage hay. It is excellent planted alone, or blended with other cereals or forage peas.

High protein, digestibility, and yield. Proven to have outstanding digestibility (IVTD) and crude protein. (See next page.) Significantly higher yields than other boot-stage cereal forages.

Excellent source of digestible fiber that is vital for the health and productivity of dairy and beef cattle. Digestible fiber (dNDF) provides energy along with the benefits of fiber for rumen health. TRICAL® 2700 receives high ratings for dNDF. (See next page.)

Superior tolerance to disease, lagoon water, and tough growing conditions compared to other cereal forages.

Keys to Successful Production and Feeding of TRICAL® 2700

Early Planting. Plant as early as weather and field conditions allow. TRICAL® 2700 is more cold tolerant than other spring cereals.

Careful Seeding. Seed with a properly adjusted drill into a carefully prepared seedbed, with adequate moisture and seed-to-soil contact.

Adequate fertility. Manage fertility for TRICAL® 2700 like you would for other cereal forages. Although TRICAL® 2700 has superior uptake of soil nutrients, fertility levels comparable to those recommended for other cereals are needed to fully achieve high yield and quality.

Timely Harvest. Protein and digestibility drop as the crop matures. For high quality dairy forage, harvest in the flag leaf or boot stage. TRICAL® 2700 has awns, so timely harvest is particularly important if the crop will be used for hay.

Analyze plant and forage samples. Boot-stage cereal forage tends to be higher in nitrate and potassium than cereal forages harvested at later maturity. In some situations these high levels can pose problems unless the diet is properly balanced. Measurement of nitrate and potassium is advisable. Consult with your crop production adviser and dairy nutritionist for optimal crop production and feeding.

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TRICAL® 2700 Forage Quality at Boot Stage

| | TRICAL7 2700 | Kanota Oats |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| | <u>% of dry matter</u> | |
| Crude Protein | 16 | 14 |
| True Digestibility (IVTD) | 83 | 77 |
| Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) | 60 | 57 |
| NDF Digestibility (dNDF as a % of NDF) | 71 | 61 |
| Digestible Fiber (dNDF) | 42 | 34 |

Averaged over eight samples each collected at boot stage, the protein and digestibility of TRICAL® 2700 were significantly better than that of Kanota oats. Crude protein averaged 16% for TRICAL® 2700 and 14% for the oats. Total digestibility averaged 83% for TRICAL® 2700 and 77% for the oats. **TRICAL® 2700 provided substantially more digestible fiber, 42 % of dry matter, compared to 34% for the oats.**

These results document the excellent quality of TRICAL® 2700 forage, and are a reminder of the limitations of some of the commonly used measures of forage quality. Measures such as crude fiber, acid detergent fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) can be misleading because some fiber is highly digestible and some is not. **Digestible fiber is vital for the health and productivity of dairy and beef cattle, and is perhaps the single most important part of forages.** For cereal forage, crude fiber, ADF, and NDF do not reliably distinguish between this "good" digestible fiber and the "bad" indigestible fiber, which reduces feed intake and productivity.

This analysis of TRICAL® 2700 by the highly respected DHI Forage Laboratory in Ithaca, New York shows the dangers of interpreting higher NDF to mean lower quality. The NDF of TRICAL® 2700 on average was 3% higher than for Kanota, but the total digestibility of TRICAL® 2700 was much higher. As a source of digestible fiber, TRICAL® 2700 was clearly superior to the oats.

Bottom line, TRICAL® 2700 is top quality forage. The combination of superior yield, quality, and tolerance to disease and lagoon water make TRICAL® 2700 the number one choice for boot stage forage.