

Seed grower's
recommendations,
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Seed production of meadow fescue



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Seed grower's calendar, meadow fescue

Sowing year

When	What to do
Establishment with cover crop	
Spring	Undersowing in an early and rigid cultivar of spring wheat or spring 2-row barley. As long as lodging is avoided, cover crop sowing rate and nitrogen rate can be the same as for ordinary barley or wheat crops without seed crop establishment. Sowing rate of meadow fescue: 5-10 kg/ha / 12-15 cm. Optimal sowing depth for meadow fescue: 1.0-2.0 cm.
Meadow fescue 1-2 leaves, weeds 2-4 leaves	Herbicides against broad-leaved weeds: Either (1) Ariane S (2.0-2.5 L/ha), (2) Starane XL (0.8-1.0 L/ha) or (3) Primus (0.05-0.1 L/ha).
Cover crop stem elongation/heading	Supplemental nitrogen input; application of fungicide, insecticide and plant growth regulator to cover crop.
August - September	Cover crop harvest as early as possible. Cover crop straw can be cut and returned except when meadow fescue plants are very weak. Leave as short stubble as possible, chop the straw and spread it evenly, spread the chaff, avoid loss of light kernels.
Shortly after cover crop harvest	Autumn fertilization, 20-40 kg N/ha
Before 15 September	If <i>Poa trivialis</i> is a problem: Puma Extra (0.5-1.0 L/ha)
Establishment in pure stand	
Spring /early summer	Prepare for seed crop with a row crop / fallow with careful weed control
Not later than 15 July	Sowing: Sowing rate of meadow fescue: 5-10 kg/ha. Incorporation of 30-40 kg N/ha into seedbed before sowing or as a surface application shortly after seedling emergence.
Meadow fescue 1-2 leaves, weeds 2-4 leaves	Herbicides against broad-leaved weeds: Either (1) Ariane S (2.0-2.5 L/ha), (2) Starane XL (0.8-1.0 L/ha) or (3) Primus (0.05-0.1 L/ha).

Seed harvest years

When	What to do
Before start of growth, (late March/early April),	Field burning or flail-chopping of second and third year crops. Flail chopping is recommended if operation is delayed due to weather conditions.
Shortly before green-up, soil temp. 4-5°C	Spring fertilization, 70-90 kg N/ha, most on sandy soils and soils low in organic matter. P and K inputs, and thus fertilizer type, should be determined from soil analyses.
Meadow fescue 10 cm high.	Broad-leaved weed control if necessary: Either (1) Ariane S (3.0-4.0 L/ha), (2) Starane XL (1.2-1.5 L/ha) or (3) Primus (0.10-0.15 L/ha). Ariane S only if temperature is higher than 10°C.
Early stem elongation to flag leaf fully developed (Z 31-44) first node 1-5 cm above surface.	Chemical plant growth regulation: Moddus, 0.6 L/ha. Tank mix with pyrethroid (e.g. Fastac 50 (0.4 L/ha)) in third year crops, and with one of the fungicides Acanto Prima (0.8-1.5 kg/ha) or Stereo 312.5 EC (0.7-1.5 L/ha) if visible attack of <i>Drechslera</i> leaf spot or other diseases.
Not later than flowering	Second application of fungicide if necessary.
Not later than flowering	Hand weeding of <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Elytrigia repens</i> , ryegrasses, cocksfoot and other weeds that are difficult to separate from meadow fescue seed.
15-25 July	Direct combining when seed moisture content is between 30 and 35 %. Drum periphery speed 18-23 m/s, concave clearance 8-12 mm front / 4-6 mm rear. Combine early and gently if seed crop is contaminated with <i>Elytrigia repens</i> . Straw can either be baled off or cut and spread evenly. Stubble height should not exceed 10 cm. Recombining of the meadow fescue straw is rarely profitable and should be avoided if seed crop is contaminated with weeds.
Just after combining / straw removal (ca. 1 Aug.)	Autumn fertilization, 20-60 kg N/ha, highest rate if regrowth is going to be maximized for forage harvest.
Not later than 15 Sep.	Regrowth can be cut for forage. If no need for forage, leave regrowth as protective cover until burning or flail-chopping next spring.