

# Birdsfoot Trefoil

## Key Features

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### Description

Birdsfoot trefoil is a long-lived, non-bloating perennial legume that can provide excellent nutritional value to pasture and additional summer production when grasses often go into a growth slump. It is tolerance to poorly-drained and somewhat acid soils.



### Applications

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Rotational Grazing  
Hay  
Silage

### Planting Time

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Spring to Early Fall

### Establishment and Management Keys

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### Strengths

Medium yields; tolerates poor drainage and acid soils better than alfalfa; fair summer regrowth; tolerates drought; excellent forage quality; non-bloating.

### Limitations

Slow to establish; less productive than alfalfa on well-drained, fertile soils; subject to invasion by weeds; slow recovery after hay harvest; fair palatability; intolerant to close cutting; susceptible to root and crown rot; must allow self-reseeding for improved persistence.

### Characteristics

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N Fixation	4
Nutrient Scavenging	2
Erosion	3
Compaction Alleviation	1
Soil Builder	1
Forage Quality	5
Winter Survivability	4

Scale 1-5 (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent)

### Seeding Rates

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Planted	NR
Drilled	5-8 lbs/acre
Broadcast	8-10 lbs/acre

NR=Not Recommended

### Seeding Depth

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Plant no deeper than 1/4"

