

Meadow Fescue and Festulolium for Pasture

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Preliminary data indicate that meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis* Huds.) and Festulolium [X *Festulolium loliaceum* (Huds.) P. Fourn.] have excellent potential for use in grazing systems. Selected germplasm of meadow fescue and Festulolium, as well as a commercial variety of meadow fescue, were compared with orchardgrass and soft-leaf tall fescue for response to grazing, harvest management and N application rate. Experiments were conducted at University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Stations near Lancaster and Marshfield, Wisconsin, and on a producer farm north of Marshfield. Meadow fescue and Festulolium produced more yield under grazing and hay management than orchardgrass and tall fescue, particularly in the spring. Festulolium and meadow fescue usually had greater digestibility, while meadow fescue exhibited a greater response to N rate than other grasses. Additional evaluation is necessary, but these potential differences could have a large impact on pasture-based beef and dairy systems.