

‘Latar’ ORCHARDGRASS

Scientific Name: *Dactylis glomerata*

Common Name: Orchardgrass

Cultivar Name: ‘Latar’

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA-SCS, Washington State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station

Release Date: 1957

ORIGIN: ‘Latar’ was originally introduced from the Institute of Plant Industry, Leningrad, Russia by the Westover-Enlow expedition in 1934

DESCRIPTION: ‘Latar’ is a late maturing, hay-type orchardgrass. It blooms and matures seed on average of 10-14 days later than commercial varieties. Leaves are abundant, broad, well distributed and noticeably light green. It is vigorous and high in vegetative production. Seed production is good. It is lowest among seven orchardgrass varieties in lignin content and significantly higher in digestibility.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No significant problems have been noted.

SEED PRODUCTION: Plant in rows 30 to 36 inches apart where cultivation is possible. 700 lbs of seed is possible under optimal conditions. Though, the average for 7 consecutive years has been 250 lbs per acre.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Plant Latar in alternate rows with legume. Use a seeding rate of 3 lbs per acre. A moist, weed-free, firm seedbed is required. Do not plant deeper than ¾ in. Spring seeding have been most successful.

CONSERVATION USES: ‘Latar’ is replacing other orchardgrasses in conservation seedings where perennial legume-grass mixtures are used in soil improving crop rotations or for hay, pasture, or silage.

AVAILABILITY: For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.