

Variety Description

Variety

Species	Crested dog's-tail
Botanical name	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Ploidy	2
Seed rate	20 kg/ha
Row spacing	as for cereals
Sowing period	March to September
Sowing depth	surface sown or up to 1

Agronomic characteristics:

Site requirements	fresh to moderately dry
Early development	slow
Sward density	high
Tread tolerance	high
Sensitivity to soil compaction	low to moderate
Persistence	high
Grazing tolerance	very high
Winter hardiness	high
Nutrient requirement	low to medium
Suitability	extensive pastures, nature conservation, permanent grassland
Yield level	low to medium

Brief variety description

ASPIRING is a variety of crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus* L.), a perennial, tuft-forming grass species used in extensive permanent grassland. The species is characterised by slow early development, high sward density and excellent grazing tolerance. Owing to its good trampling resistance and winter hardiness, it is particularly suitable for extensive grazing systems and species-rich grassland mixtures. Crested dog's-tail prefers moderately fertile, often moist sites and contributes to the formation of stable and long-lasting grass swards. The ASPIRING variety is especially suitable for extensive grassland management and conservation-oriented seed mixtures.

Key characteristics at a glance

High sward density
Good trampling tolerance
High persistence
Medium yield potential
Well suited to higher altitudes

Annotation

Crested dog's-tail is a perennial ground-covering grass native to Eurasia that forms small, leafless clumps. The fruiting structure is a panicle. The fertile spikelets are arranged on one side of the panicle, whilst numerous sterile glumes are arranged on the other. This arrangement resembles the shape of a comb, which has contributed to the species' name. In English-speaking countries, the species is also known as 'dog's-tail grass'. The genus name *Cynosurus* derives from Greek: 'kyon' means 'dog' and 'oura' means 'tail'. Thus, in English too, the morphology of the inflorescence – which, as well as resembling a comb, bears a visual resemblance to a dog's tail – has shaped the species' common name. This winter-hardy, perennial and moderately extensive species is found on extensively managed, permanent grassland, particularly on pasture sites in damp and cooler locations. Due to its hardiness, high sward density and good resistance to trampling, the species tolerates grazing very well. Regeneration following grazing is facilitated by a robust rhizome. □

