

Variety Description

Variety

PLAINSTAR

Species	Ribwort plantain
Botanical name	Plantago lanceolata
Seeding rate	20 kg/ha
Distance between rows	Similar to cereals
Sowing period	April to August
Sowing depth	1–2 cm

Agronomic figures*:

Beginning of flowering	7
Development after sowing	6
Tendency to winterkilling	3
Tendency to lodging	2
Leaf/stem ratio	8
Persistence	7
DM-yield total	6
DM-yield first cut	6
DM-yield in later cuts	6



Clarification of figures*:

1: very early, very low / 5: medium / 9: very late, very high

* **Source:** Cultivator classification

Variety description

PLAINSTAR is a new ribwort plantain variety for use as fodder, characterised by excellent dry matter yield and uniform yield distribution. The variety is characterised by its very high percentage of evenly sized leaves that are delicate and rather small compared to other varieties, resulting in extremely dense sward formation and, consequently, excellent weed suppression. As fodder it is more readily consumed than other varieties thanks to its palatable, delicate leaves that are less prone to lignification. It exhibits low tendency to produce flowers in subsequent cuts, leading to extensive formation of young, easily digestible leaf mass. PLAINSTAR is highly persistent and extremely winter-hardy, which makes it possible to cultivate it over 4-5 years. PLAINSTAR exhibits very high drought tolerance due to its strong, widely branched root system.

Most important characteristics

Outstanding yield potential and even yield distribution
Very high leaf mass and palatability
Drought tolerant
Perennial

Usage

The health of ruminants can be demonstrably improved by using ribwort plantain. Its condensed tannins play a particularly important role – due to their dietetic effect, they delay the rapid breakdown of various proteins, helping to reduce gas and air in the digestive tract. In addition, a diet that includes ribwort plantain contributes to animals' mineral intake. Among herbaceous plants, ribwort plantain is one of the richest in calcium, which is essential for proper nutrition in cattle feed. Ribwort plantain is ideal for cattle, which require the essential minerals calcium and phosphorus in a 2:1 ratio, since it can provide for their high calcium needs. PLAINSTAR is suitable for cultivation in cutting and grazing systems.

