

****NOTE TO CUSTOMER****

Please be advised of potential Prussic Acid poisoning (HCN) and Nitrate poisoning (NO₃) associated with all forage sorghums and sorghum sudan hybrids which can be potentially fatal to primarily ruminants, however, all domestic animals are susceptible. All forage sorghums and sorghum sudan hybrids should be tested for Nitrate and evaluated for Prussic Acid prior to baling, grazing or curing (testing for Prussic Acid is difficult due to volatility of HCN). Nitrate and Prussic poisoning are similar in that they both result from an alteration in the body's ability to use oxygen. Nitrate and Prussic poisoning generally occur under different conditions. Prussic Acid poisoning primarily occurs in animals grazing green, succulent forages as opposed to dried baled hay. When forage containing a potentially lethal level of Prussic Acid is cut and properly cured, after baling, the Prussic Acid leaves the plant as a gas and the resulting hay is no longer a threat in terms of Prussic Acid poisoning. THIS is NOT the case with Nitrate poisoning, Nitrate does not leave the plant at any time after cutting, therefore curing a cut forage does not eliminate the potential for Nitrate poisoning.

NITRATE MANAGEMENT:

1. Test the crop prior to cutting to establish the nitrate level. If the level is high and the crop is still alive and growing, postpone or delay the cutting.
2. Cut crops in the afternoon as opposed to early in the morning.
3. Allow for several days of clear, sunny weather before cutting the crop.
4. Raise the height of the cutting bar.
5. Avoid excessive nitrogen fertilizer applications and test for current levels of nitrogen before applying additional fertilizer.
6. Crops high in nitrate can be used to make ensilage with a relatively good margin of safety.

PRUSSIC ACID MANAGEMENT:

1. Properly cure before baling.
2. Delay grazing or feeding until plants are 20 inches tall.

3. If crop development is stunned by drought or other conditions, it should be allowed to recover before grazing or feeding.
4. Prussic Acid levels will rise after a frost or freeze and it is recommended to remove all animals for at least 7 days to allow prussic acid levels to drop back to a safe level before letting livestock back to graze.

Information provided by Production Plus Seeds. For more information, please contact our office at 806-293-3103 or 800-530-4364.