



WEEPING LOVE GRASS

ERMELO

(ERAGROSTIS CURVULA)

OVERVIEW

One of the most useful pastures, especially in the Highveld because it is easy to establish and invariably grows well even on poor soils. Outstanding acid soil tolerance. A relatively short summer grazing period.

It starts growing early in spring but does not produce much bulk until early summer.

The great ease with which this grass can be established on virtually any soil type, accounts for the tremendous area planted throughout the world. Furthermore it has a long life, is tolerant to grazing mismanagement, provides good spring grazing and is by far the easiest grass of which to make hay.

To obtain a good feed value however, it requires high Nitrogen fertilization, thus making it a rather high cost pasture.

EVALUATION SYNOPSIS

Acid soil tolerance	Outstanding
Adaptability	Outstanding
Bloat Danger	None
Disease tolerance	Outstanding
Drought leaf-hold	Excellent
Drought survival	Excellent
Feed value	Fair
Foggage potential	Poor
Frost tolerance	Poor
Grazing flexibility	Poor
Insect tolerance	Excellent
Longevity (years)	± 10 years
Palatability	Fair

Description: A tufted perennial

Adaptation: Particularly well suited to the Highland Sourveld, but will grow wherever the rainfall is more than about 700mm. Prefers light soils.

Uses: Primarily a hay grass (cures easily). Also grazing and silage. Unpalatable if allowed to become too rank and if not well fertilized with nitrogen. Very useful in leys – extensive root system aids build-up of soil structure.

Establishment: Sow 2 – 4 kg / ha

Cultivars: Ermelo is the best available but better grazing types may be selected in time.

