

Variety Description

Variety

PIPER

Species	Sudan grass/sweet sorghum
Botanical name	Sorghum sudanense
Ploidy	Diploid
Seeding rate (main or second crop)	45-55 plants/m ² \triangleq 1 unit/ha
Seeding rate (catch crop)	90-110 plants/m ² \triangleq 2 unit/ha
Distance between rows	10-30 cm
Sowing periods ...	
... after rye or field grass	Mid-May
... after whole-plant silage	Mid-June to early July
... after early-season potatoes or similar crops	Mid-June to late July
Sowing depth	3 cm
Fertiliser requirements ...	
... N	80-180 kg/ha
... P ₂ O ₅	100-150 kg/ha
... K ₂ O	150-250 kg/ha
... Mg	20-30 kg/ha
... Ca	20-30 kg/ha

Agronomic figures*:

Leaf width	3
Growth height	up to 2 m
Sward colour	Yellow

Clarification of figures*:

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

* **Source:** Cultivator classification

Variety description

PIPER is ideally suited for use as a second crop and, especially, a catch crop. It combines high biomass and DM yields with an extremely short growing period and very low water requirement. PIPER is the perfect solution for reliable ground cover and lush greenery. It can also be used to great effect as a second crop in intensive energy crop rotations. Thanks to its exceptional resprouting ability, PIPER can also be used for repeated cuts in hay and silage applications. As a photoperiod-neutral plant, PIPER forms panicles even on long growing days into August. This property adds to its high suitability as a catch crop.

Most important characteristics

C4 plant (like maize)
Drought tolerant
Ideal for sandy sites that warm up easily, mild climates
Possible alternative to maize in dry-warm sites

Usage

Sudan grass has lower water requirements than maize. It prefers dry, warm sites and a fine, well-distributed and consolidated seedbed prior to sowing. Cool, inactive or waterlogged sites with high clay content are not recommended. At the time of sowing, the ground temperature should be no lower than 12°C. Protect from weeds during the slow early development. Sudan grass is self-pollinated. Harvesting can be done with a row-independent maize chopper.

