

# Mega Green: Information

**Mega Green Hybrid Sorghum Sudangrass** is the first photo period hybrid sorghum sudangrass to be introduced to the American farmers and is protected by PVP - (Plant Variety Protection).

The initial purpose of this hybrid was to widen the window of harvest for the hay producers of the country.

Traditional sorghum sudangrass will produce a plant with 7 leaves that are 2 inches wide and 2 feet long. Approximately 65 days after this hybrid is planted it will "boot" and change from the vegetative stage of growth to the reproductive stage of growth. When this occurs the protein that is present in the leaves and stem begins to move into the panicle and form seeds. Each day of delay in harvesting after this change occurs results in the lowering the protein content and general quality of the hay being produced.

**Mega Green** in comparison with traditional 3 Way Cross Sorghum Sudangrass will remain in the vegetative stage of growth for up to 180 days or as long as the day length is more than 12 hours and 20 minutes. This six month growth without forming a panicle enables the grower to make multiple hay cutting or if grazing it stretches his grazing period without having to worry about loss of quality in his forages, allowing the hay producer to harvest at his convenience and not have to be limited to such a short window of harvest.

**Mega Green** has fast re-growth capabilities and is adaptable to many different growing conditions and soil types. Dairy farmers in the Eastern US are grazing their cattle or harvesting "bailage" when the plants reach 36 to 42 inches. They are reporting protein content of 20% or more.

**Mega Green** when left to grow can produce plants up to 12 feet in height with leaves 3 inches wide and 4 feet long. For hay production the ideal time to harvest **Mega Green** is 6 feet in height or 70 days which ever comes first.

Unlike conventional three way cross sorghum sudangrass that requires you to leave a 6 to 8 inch stubble, with **Mega Green** we recommend that you cut as low as possible. This allows multiple tillers from the crown roots as opposed to the single plant re-growth from the growing tip.