



Managing Paddocks

Having sown and established an appropriate mixture of the correct species and varieties of grasses to meet your animals' requirements, it is important to manage it correctly. Over-stocked and hard grazed paddocks will result in even the low ME grasses throwing up young shoots which will be high in ME and crude protein and may have an adverse impact on your horses. If possible, allow the grass to mature and become more fibrous before grazing.

Some paddocks can be closed off to produce a crop of haylage or hay and then returned to provide grazing. Alternatively, you might prefer to keep the paddocks for grazing and devote other land to producing the specialist Horse Hay and Haylage mixtures. Bear in mind that horses and ponies need to feed and ingest for at least sixteen hours every day.

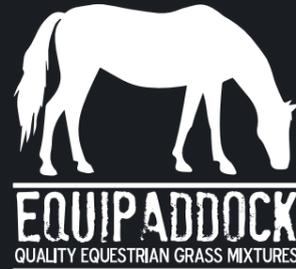
Conserved Forages

According to Dr Cecilia Muller of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences at Uppsala, the definition of the three types of conserved grass are as follows;

- Grass of less than 50% dry matter when cut for conservation is silage
- Grass above 84% dry matter is hay
- Haylage is grass conserved between 50% and 84%

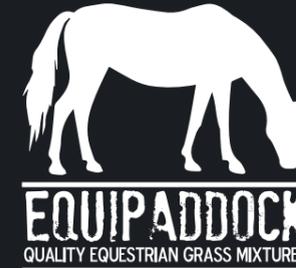
Given the choice, horses would prefer to eat silage, but this is too high in ME and might well result in laminitis and other serious health problems.

Therefore grass that has had a delayed harvest and is higher in fibre but lower in ME and CP, i.e. either haylage or hay is the preferred feed for horses. There is no nutritive difference between hay and haylage and the decreased nutritive value compared to silage leads to longer ingestion times, which is healthier for the animal.



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QUALITY EQUESTRIAN GRASS MIXTURES



Horses and ponies have been around for more than 50,000 years and they evolved to thrive in their natural habitat, the steppes; vast grassland areas that once dominated our landscape. Mares will always graze with their heads down relying on the ever alert stallions to warn them of the approach of predators. Their defence against predators is their speed; they evolved to out-run their enemies.

As a consequence of this evolution, horses have relatively small stomachs which means that they have to eat almost continuously.

Working horses and maybe some race horses require a high ME (metabolisable energy) and protein rich diet, but since the working horse has been replaced by tractors, by far the majority of horses and ponies have a dietary requirement of low ME and low crude protein (CP) feed. Their requirement for grazing is pretty much the

opposite to that of a modern dairy cow - so no high sugar grasses and no protein rich clovers; merely clean, weed free, interesting forage. Therefore the majority of healthy pastures developed for farming are rendered unsuitable for horses and ponies.

The Equipaddock range has been developed after consultation with equine nutritionists and other experts and offers a comprehensive portfolio of products tailor made for horses and ponies. These range from paddock mixtures through to hay and haylage crops to stallion paddocks and racing gallops.



All of our mixtures are supplied in handy 10kg packs



Horse Paddock Mixture

This mixture has been formulated to provide grazing for horses and ponies with intermittent rests from grazing to produce a hay crop. Depending on any herbs present, we would recommend the addition of a minimum of 250 grams of mixed herbs per acre (either mixed with the grass or preferably sown in strips in the sward) to improve the nutritional aspects of the sward. The mixture is designed to perform well with moderate inputs of nitrogen, but a good application before closing off for hay will produce the best results.

All Natural Seed - Sow at 10-15 kgs per acre

7%	Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass
14%	Creeping Red Fescue
17%	Timothy
62%	Late Perennial Ryegrass
100%	



Gallops & Schooling Area Mixture

This mixture is designed to produce a very dense, springy sward, capable of withstanding very heavy wear and is of course also perfectly suited to racecourses and polo pitches. Naturally, the regular maintenance of this area will pay off by ensuring the turf maintains its springy nature.

All Natural Seed - Sow at 20-40 kgs per acre

4%	Crested Dogstail
20%	Slender Creeping Red Fescue
10%	Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass
10%	Creeping Red Fescue
28%	Late Perennial Ryegrass
28%	Turf Type Perennial Ryegrasses
100%	



Haylage Mixture

A short term mixture for the production of quality haylage. High in fibre, but with a good 'nose'.

All Natural Seed - Sow at 12-15 kgs per acre

8%	Timothy
50%	Italian Ryegrass
22%	Mid-season Perennial Ryegrass
20%	Hybrid Ryegrass
100%	



Stud Paddock Mixture

This mixture is designed to produce a good, well balanced sward especially suitable for mares and their foals. The deep rooted herbs will improve the calcium and phosphorus levels, being two of the more important trace elements therefore important for the growth and bone development of young horses.

All Natural Seed - Sow at 15-40 kgs per acre

6%	Crested Dogstail
6%	Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass
15%	Creeping Red Fescue
48%	Late Perennial Ryegrass
20%	Turf Type Perennial Ryegrasses
5%	Herb Mixture
100%	

Equipaddock Original

Our Equipaddock Original mixture is available in 1/2 acre plastic buckets - containing 7 kg of seed. A slightly amended mixture to our standard Horse Paddock, this handy pack enables you to reseed areas and at the same time, leaves you a plastic container that will be useful around your stables. Also available in the standard 10kg pack.

All Natural Seed - Available in 1/2 acre buckets

15%	Early Perennial Ryegrass
30%	Mid-season Perennial Ryegrass
23%	Late Perennial Ryegrass
12%	Timothy
4%	Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass
16%	Creeping Red Fescue
100%	



Herb Mixture

Our herb mixture has been specially developed for horses and ponies and includes a number of deep rooting and nutritious species which provide a good source of minerals and trace elements. Our mixed herbs are included in selected grass seed mixtures, but are also available separately for sowing in strips or islands in the field, which often gives better establishment.

35%	Chicory
25%	Burnet
10%	Ribgrass
30%	Sheep's Parsley
100%	

Available in 1kg packs - Sow at 250-500g/acre



Horse Hay Mixture

This mixture is designed to produce high quality horse hay with that special 'nose' that can only come from a good Timothy content. It will also provide useful grazing in the early spring and throughout late summer and autumn. In winter, it should only be grazed lightly if a good hay crop is desired.

All Natural Seed - Sow at 12-15 kgs per acre

15%	Timothy
5%	Cocksfoot
5%	Meadow Fescue
75%	Late Perennial Ryegrass
100%	



Stallion Paddock Mixture

The Stallion Paddock mixture is formulated to withstand harder wear whilst still maintaining a dense, springy and nutritious sward. It contains turf type ryegrasses, which are rated very well for their wear tolerance and early growth.

All Natural Seed - Sow at 15-40 kgs per acre

6%	Crested Dogstail
10%	Slender Creeping Red Fescue
12%	Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass
12%	Creeping Red Fescue
29%	Late Perennial Ryegrass
28%	Turf Type Perennial Ryegrasses
3%	Herb Mixture
100%	

