Establishing Cool-Season Annual Grasses

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Cool-Season Annual Grasses Establishment Options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Seeding Rate (lb/ac)</th>
<th>Planting Depth</th>
<th>Months of Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryegrass Only</td>
<td>25-30</td>
<td>0-0.5 in.</td>
<td>Feb to May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Grain Only</td>
<td>80-120</td>
<td>1-1.5 in.</td>
<td>Dec to April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Oat, Rye, Triticale, Wheat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryegrass and Small Grain</td>
<td>20-25 ryegrass + 80-120 small grain</td>
<td>See above</td>
<td>Dec to May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryegrass and Legume*</td>
<td>15-20 ryegrass + 2/3 of pure stand seeding rate legume</td>
<td>0-0.5 in. (ryegrass) 0-1.0 in. depending on legume</td>
<td>Feb to May</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* For legume establishment see “Forage Legume Management Guide.”

Planting Date, Method and Fertilization

1. Prepared Seedbed
   • Obtain a soil test to assess needs of limestone, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, or nutrients.
   • Destroy existing vegetation by disking and then rolling (packing) to provide firm seedbed for planting and moisture retention.
   • Phosphorus and/or potash fertilizer can be applied before or at time of planting.
   • Plant cool-season grasses from mid-September to early October before a good chance for rainfall.
   • Nitrogen fertilizer is usually split-applied, and depending on soil test recommendations, may require 1 to 3 split applications at 50-60 lbs N/ac. Delay initial N application until after grass emergence.

2. Light Disking (1-2” deep)
   • Provides loose soil to cover seed and reduces warm-season grass competition.
   • Use on bermudagrass and bahiagrass pastures.
   • Warm-season grass needs to be short (less than 4”; grazing, hay harvest, mowing, etc.).
• Plant cool-season annual grasses 4 to 6 weeks before the average first killing frost, which usually occurs in November.
• Seed are planted with a drill or broadcast followed by some type of pasture drag to cover seed

• Phosphorus and potash fertilization should be based on soil test recommendations and applied 2 to 3 weeks post emergence if not applied prior to or at time of planting.

• Initial nitrogen fertilizer application should be delayed until after the cool-season grass is established and cool temperatures have reduced warm-season grass growth.

• Nitrogen fertilization is dependent on soil test and may be split in 1 to 3 applications of 50-60 lbs/acre.

3. Overseeding or Sodseeding into Undisturbed Sod
   • Warm-season grass needs to be short (less than 4”; grazing, hay harvest, mowing, etc.).

   • Planting date is several weeks later than other planting methods to reduce warm-season grass competition.

   • Requires sod seeder (no-till drill) if planting small grain or may be accomplished with fertilizer truck.

   • Broadcasting into an undisturbed sod is usually limited to annual ryegrass and small seeded clovers (ball, white, etc.).

   • If broadcasting cool-season grasses, the seeding rates should be increased 25% to 30%.

   • Initial fertilizer application should be delayed until after the cool season grass is established and cool temperatures have reduced warm season grass growth.

   • Nitrogen fertilization may be split in 1 to 3 applications of 50-60 lbs/acre.

   • Phosphorus and potash fertilization should be based on soil test recommendations.

Utilization
• Best use is by young growing animals (stocker calves, replacement heifers, first calf heifers, creep grazing fall calves.).

• For fall calving cows, limit graze (2 hrs/day or 4 hrs every other day) during fall and winter as a protein and energy supplement. Increase hours/day on pasture as growth rate increases in early spring.

• Can be used for fall or winter calving cows.

• Should NOT use for dry, mature cows due to high costs.