



# Forage Management

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February, 1994

Recommended seeding rates of forage species when seeded alone or in mixtures.

| Species             | Seed/lb   | Seed/sqft/lb/a | Seeding Rate |              |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                     |           |                | Alone lb/a   | Mixture lb/a |
| Legumes             |           |                |              |              |
| Alfalfa             | 200,000   | 5              | 15-20        | 8-15         |
| Alsike clover       | 680,000   | 16             | 6-8          | 2-4          |
| Birdsfoot trefoil   | 375,000   | 9              | 4-8          | 2-6          |
| Lespedeza, Korean   | 240,000   | 6              | 15-25        | 8-10         |
| Lespedeza, Sericea  | 335,000   | 8              | 15-20        | 8-10         |
| Red clover          | 275,000   | 6              | 8-10         | 2-6          |
| White clover        | 700,000   | 16             | 3-5          | 1-2          |
| Grasses             |           |                |              |              |
| Bermudagrass        | 1,800,000 | 41             | 6-10         | 3-5          |
| Bluegrass, Kentucky | 2,200,000 | 50             | 4-6          | 2-3          |
| Bromegrass, smooth  | 136,000   | 3              | 8-14         | 4-10         |
| Orchardgrass        | 654,000   | 15             | 8-12         | 4-6          |
| Red top             | 5,100,000 | 117            | 3-5          | 1-3          |
| Reed Canarygrass    | 533,000   | 12             | 12-14        | 6-8          |
| Ryegrass, annual    | 227,000   | 5              | 20-30        | 10-15        |
| Ryegrass, perennial | 227,000   | 5              | 10-12        | 5-6          |
| Tall fescue         | 230,000   | 5              | 12-14        | 6-12         |
| Timothy             | 1,230,000 | 28             | 8-10         | 2-8          |

# Characteristics of Common West Virginia Forage Species

| Forage species      | Growing point | Aftermath reproductive growth | Est. vigor | Plant type | Management adaptation |                        | Optimum soil pH | Tolerance to poor drainage | Tolerance to flooding | Tolerance to drought |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                     |               |                               |            |            | hay                   | grazing<br>rota. cont. |                 |                            |                       |                      |
| <b>Legumes</b>      |               |                               |            |            |                       |                        |                 |                            |                       |                      |
| Alfalfa             | elevated      | yes                           | med        | bunch      | E                     | P                      | 6.5-7.0         | P                          | P                     | E                    |
| Alsike clover       | elevated      | yes                           | med        | bunch      | P                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | E                          | P                     | P                    |
| Birdfoot trefoil    | elevated      | yes                           | low        | bunch      | E                     | G                      | 6.0-6.5         | E                          | P                     | G                    |
| Lespedeza, Korean   | elevated      | yes                           | med        | bunch      | G                     | G                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | P                     | G                    |
| Lespedeza, Sericea  | elevated      | yes                           | low        | bunch      | P                     | G                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | P                     | G                    |
| Red clover          | elevated      | yes                           | high       | bunch      | G                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | P                     | G                    |
| White clover        | ground        | yes                           | low        | bunch      | P                     | G                      | 5.8-6.5         | E                          | P                     | P                    |
| <b>Grasses</b>      |               |                               |            |            |                       |                        |                 |                            |                       |                      |
| Bermudagrass        | elevated      | yes                           | med        | sod        | G                     | G                      | 5.8-6.5         | P                          | P                     | G                    |
| Bluegrass, Kentucky | ground        | no                            | low        | sod        | P                     | E                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | G                     | P                    |
| Bromegrass, Smooth  | elevated      | joints                        | med        | sod        | E                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | P                     | E                    |
| Orchardgrass        | ground        | no                            | med        | bunch      | E                     | G                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | P                     | G                    |
| Ryegrass, Perennial | ground        | yes                           | high       | bunch      | G                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | P                          | P                     | P                    |
| Ryegrass, Annual    | ground        | yes                           | high       | bunch      | P                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | P                          | P                     | P                    |
| Reed canarygrass    | elevated      | joints                        | low        | sod        | E                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | E                          | E                     | E                    |
| Tall fescue, E+     | ground        | no                            | med        | bunch      | G                     | G                      | 5.6-6.5         | E                          | E                     | E                    |
| Tall fescue, E-     | ground        | no                            | med        | bunch      | E                     | P                      | 5.8-6.5         | E                          | E                     | G                    |
| Timothy             | elevated      | joints                        | med        | bunch      | E                     | G                      | 5.8-6.5         | G                          | P                     | P                    |

E+- endophyte infected  
 E- - endophyte free  
 rota. - rotational  
 cont. - continuous  
 E - excellent  
 G - good  
 P - poor