

Pasture Forage Species:

Perennials

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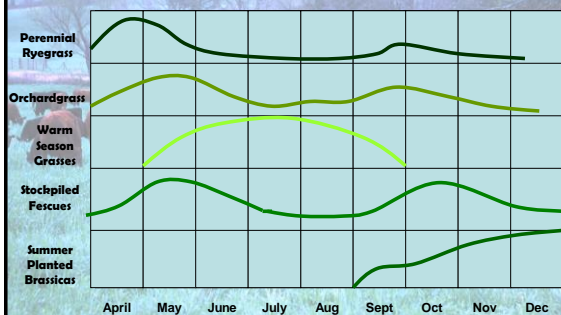
Types of Forages

- Cool Season Grasses
- Warm Season Grasses
- Legumes

Cool Season Grasses

- Most common grasses that are grown
- Perennial plants that grow year after year
- Have two growth periods
 - Spring flush
 - Late summer growth
- Can be used to graze livestock during the entire grazing season

Pasture Species Production



Common Cool Season Forages

- Orchardgrass
- Kentucky Bluegrass
- Perennial Ryegrass
- Reed Canarygrass
- Tall Fescue
- Timothy
- Smooth Bromegrass
- Festulolium
- Meadow Bromegrass
- Meadow Fescue

Orchardgrass

- Seed rate: 8-10 lbs per acre
- Easy to establish
- Mixes well with legumes
- Bunch type grass
- "Tekapo" variety is a sod former



Kentucky Bluegrass

- Seed rate: 4 lbs per acre
- Tolerates close frequent grazing
- Forms dense sod
- Mixes well with legumes
- Goes dormant in hot, dry weather



Perennial Ryegrass

- Seed rate: 4- 8 lbs per acre
- Easy to establish
- Mixes well with legumes
- Low drought tolerance
- Great for early spring grazing



Reed Canarygrass

- Seed at 14 lbs/ac
- Sod forming grass
- Tolerates wet soils
- Drought Tolerant
- Hard to establish
- Requires taller stubble height



Tall Fescue

- Seed rate: 10-12 lbs per acre
- Genetically modified varieties are available to reduce susceptibility to fescue toxicity
- Drought tolerant
- Tolerates heavy hoof traffic



Timothy

- Seed rate: 4 lbs/ac
- Easy to establish
- Does not tolerate close and frequent grazing
- Managed stands only last 3-4 years
- Timothy mites could be a problem



Smooth Bromegrass

- Seed at 6-8 lbs/ac
- Fairly easy to establish
- Does not tolerate close and frequent grazing
- Better suited for hay production



Festulolium

- Hybrid of Perennial Ryegrass and Fescue
 - Meadow fescue
 - Tall fescue
- Can have resistance to summer slump
- Spring growth is comparable to Perennial Ryegrass
- Livestock may selectively graze some varieties



FESTULOLIUM

Barenbrug USA

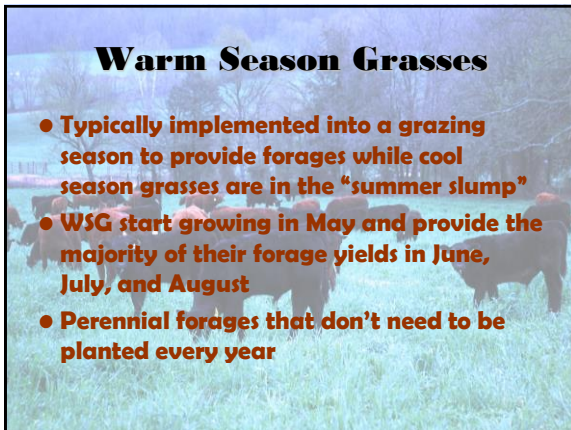
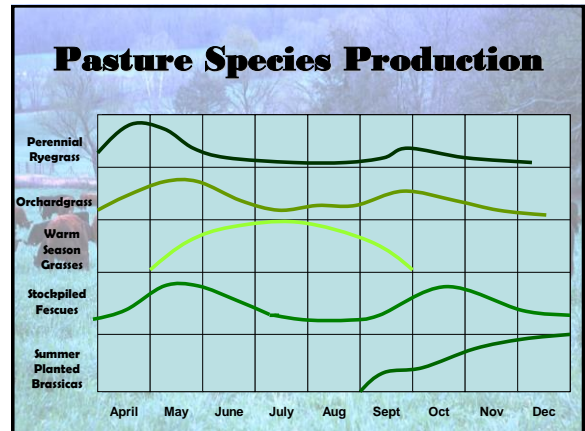
Warm Season Grasses

- Switchgrass
- Big Bluestem
- Eastern Gammagrass



Warm Season Grasses

- Typically implemented into a grazing season to provide forages while cool season grasses are in the “summer slump”
- WSG start growing in May and provide the majority of their forage yields in June, July, and August
- Perennial forages that don’t need to be planted every year

Switchgrass

- Fairly easy to establish
- Can be planted with a regular drill
- Seed at 8-10 lbs/ac. PLS
- Should be seeded as a pure stand
- Can be grazed down to 6-8 inches



Big Bluestem

- Difficult to establish
- Need WSG drill or conventionally prepared seed bed
- Seed at 10-12 lbs/ac PLS
- Takes 2 years to get stand established



Eastern Gamma Grass

- Difficult to establish
- Tough seed coat makes germination hard
- Seed usually needs to be chilled for 8-10 weeks prior to planting
- Once established, well suited and high performing grazing forage



Legumes

- Typically implemented into grazing systems to add nitrogen to the soil and can add protein and digestible fiber to livestock diets
- Legumes fix atmospheric nitrogen to the soil for themselves and other plants to use
- Legumes are added to pasture mixes in low amounts due to bloat potential

Legumes

- Alfalfa
- Clover
 - Red Clover
 - White Clover
- Birdsfoot Trefoil

Alfalfa

- Seed at 4-8 lbs/ac
- Can be frost seeded through no-tilling
- Add N to the soil and protein to the diet
- Best suited for rotational grazing systems
- Can cause bloat



Red Clover

- Seed at 2 lbs/ac
- Easy to establish through no-till
- Can be frost seeded
- Adds N to soil and protein to diet
- Low drought tolerance
- Can cause bloat



White Clover (Large)

- Seed at 1 lb/ac
- Can be frost seeded
- Can be grazed down to 1 inch
- Adds N to soil and protein to diet
- Spreads through stolons



Birdsfoot Trefoil

- Can be difficult to establish
- Seed at 6-8 lbs/ac
- Best suited for rotational grazing systems
- Better animal performance than alfalfa
- Does not cause bloat in livestock



Questions?

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