



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Enhancement Activity – ANM03-Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base



Enhancement Description:

Establish native grasses and/or incorporate legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding.

Land Use Applicability: This enhancement is applicable to pastureland.

Benefits

Enhancing existing pasture by incorporating

establishing native grasses and legumes can:

1. Improve forage quality and quantity
2. Build soil fertility (legumes fix nitrogen in the soil), increase organic matter
3. Increase plant diversity and promote wildlife habitat
4. Provide forage during seasonal slump periods
5. Extend the grazing season
6. Food source for pollinating insects

Criteria for establishing Native Grasses and/or incorporating Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres

1. A written grazing management plan that outlines specific goals and objectives.
2. Utilize adapted species, seeding rates and seeding dates according to local NRCS practice standards.
3. Prepare site to reduce competition for native grass establishment in accordance with state-specific recommendations.
4. Prepare site for incorporating legumes into existing forages, or establishing legume fields in accordance with state-specific recommendations
5. Determine species composition before and after seeding. Species composition must be 15% or more of native grasses and/or legumes.
6. If legumes are incorporated, a current-year soil test is required. Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test recommendation.
7. Apply appropriate inoculant before planting legumes.

Documentation Requirements for establishing Native Grasses and/or incorporating Legumes into 15% or more of the forage acres

- A written planting specifications plan that meets the criteria identifying:
 - Plant species to be seeded



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- Seeding rates and dates
- Activities to control plant competition
- Site preparations and planting method
- Amounts of fertilizer and lime to be applied
- Map showing locations of planting

TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT
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SPECIES ¹	Seeding Rate Pounds per Acre ³	Seeding Date	Seeding Method Planned (Tilled or No-Till) ⁴
COOL SEASON GRASSES:			
Virginia Wildrye (P)	19	8 /15 – 10/1 or 2/20 – 4/1	
WARM SEASON GRASSES:			
Big Bluestem (P)	10	4/15 - 7/1	
Eastern Gamagrass (P)	13	4/15 - 7/1 12/1 – 3/1	
Indiangrass (P)	10	4/15 - 7/1	
Little Bluestem (P)	10	4/15 - 7/1	
Switchgrass (P)	10	4/15 - 7/1	
LEGUMES ²			
Illinois Bundleflower (P)	1	4/15 - 7/1	
Purple Prairie Clover (P)	1	4/15 - 7/1	
Partridge Pea (A)	1	4/15 – 7/1	

¹ (A) = Annual; (P) = Perennial

² Establish Illinois bundleflower and Purple prairie clover when establishing native warm season grass or overseed into existing native warm season grass by: tillage disturbing 50% of the surface soil broadcasting seed and cultipacking or no-till drilling legumes in native warm season bunch grasses.

³ Each grass species seeding rate listed is based on a pure stand planting. Grass mixture seeding rates need to be adjusted based on the number of grass species in the mixture. Example: For a 3 grass species mixture, the correct grass seeding rate would be 1/3 the above listed rate for each species in the mixture. Native legume rates in the table are mixture rates to be added directly to the grass seeding rate if a grass/legume mixture is planned.

⁴ See Job sheet for Fescue Eradication; leave drainageways and areas prone to erosion in permanent cover. **Tilled:** prepare seedbed no more than one month prior to seeding. Destroy all competing vegetation, cultipack, apply labeled pre-emerge herbicide (eastern gamagrass and switchgrass are not tolerant of imazapic herbicide), seed, cultipack. **No-till:** See Fescue Eradication Jobsheet.

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PRODUCER NAME:				DATE:		
TRACT NUMBER(S):				COUNTY:		
TOTAL PASTURE ACRES (all tracts):						
Field Number (TRACT)	Field Acres	Native Grass Planting Acres	Species to be seeded	Seeding Rate (lb/ac)	Planned Seeding Method	
					Tilled	No-till

Apply Lime and Fertilizer as recommended by a soil test. Submit sample with code NWSG. No nitrogen the establishment year. Enter soil test results and amount of nutrient applied.

	FIELD NUMBER (S)	LIME (tons)	N (lbs)	P2O5 (lbs)	K2O (lbs)
SOIL TEST RECOMMENDATION			0		
NUTRIENT APPLIED					

NOTES:
