

Piedmont Pasture and Hayfield Management Calendar

January

- ✓ *Happy New Year!*
- ✓ *Scout pastures and hay fields for cool season annuals, biennials and herbaceous perennials.*
- ✓ *Make a plan, visit for recommendations*
https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/456/456-016/ENTO-335D.pdf

February - March

- ✓ *Frost seed clover*
https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext.../418-022_pdf.pdf
- ✓ *During periods of 3 or more days of greater than 55 F daytime temperatures treat cool season annuals (ex. chickweed, henbit etc.), biennials (ex. thistles) and herbaceous perennials (ex. buttercup, plantain, etc.) with 2-4,D (1qt)+dicamba (1pt) or DuraCor (12-16 fl oz)*

April

- ✓ *Seed cool season grasses end of March/early April!*
- ✓ *Reminder: Spray early bud stage for perennials, seedling to rosette stage for biennials, and seedling to vegetative (less than 10" tall) for annuals.*
- ✓ *If buttercup or mustards are flowering, you waited too long.*
- ✓ *Treat thistles in the rosette stage before they begin to bolt.*
- ✓ *Consider seeding feeding areas to warm season annual like crabgrass, pearl millet, and/or sudex.*

May

- ✓ *Hay making time!*
- ✓ *Seed warm season grasses!*
- ✓ *Spray fencelines: Roundup will rust fence, use, Remedy Ultra+GrazonNext HL or DuraCor for annual broadleaf weeds, herbaceous perennials, and woody perennials. Add metsulfuron for enhanced multi-flora rose and blackberry control and fescue seed head suppression.*
- ✓ *Scout for warm season annuals (ex. spiny "pigweed" amaranth, cocklebur, ragweed, perilla mint, etc.) and herbaceous perennials (ex. dogfennel, horse nettle, etc.)*

June

- ✓ *Treat spiny pigweed when small with 2-4,D or 2-4,D+dicamba. GrazonNext HL or DuraCor also work and have residual activity.*
- ✓ *Treat dogfennel when less than knee high with PastureGard HL*
- ✓ *Treat woody perennials when leaves fully expanded with Remedy Ultra and/or metsulfuron*

July

- ✓ *Spray for horse nettle at flowering with GrazonNext HL or Duracor.*
- ✓ *Scout for and treat perilla mint early, harder control as matures. Remove livestock after treatment till desiccated.*

August

- ✓ *Spray for horse nettle at flowering*
- ✓ *Consider herbicide treatment of pastures to be fertilized and grazing deferred for stockpiling*

September /October

- ✓ *After fall hay cutting good time to control emerging cool season annuals and herbaceous perennials.*
- ✓ *For buckhorn plantain control consider adding Prowl H2O to 2,4-D+Dicamba to prevent plantain reestablishing from seed, if not reseeding grass*
- ✓ *Seed cool season grasses at least 6 weeks before frost*

November

- ✓ *Happy Thanksgiving!!*
- ✓ *Brush control can be accomplished during winter with dormant basal treatment. Use Remedy Ultra with Horticultural oil or diesel fuel. Treat with mixture completely around stem at soil line up 12-18 inches. If more than 6" in diameter, cut and then treat stump.*

December

- ✓ *Happy Holidays!!*

Tips on Grasses

*Times will vary depending on temperatures, rainfall, and location in the piedmont region of Virginia. If using DuraCor (broadleaf herbicide with residual and minimal drift issues), wait two weeks to reseed fescue and do not frost seed clover if you sprayed in the fall.

Notes on Endophyte Infected Fescue:

- Affects younger animals more due to their increased nutritional needs, so calves, stockers, and first calf heifers should avoid hot fescue fields
- Can cause late term abortions, prolonged gestation, lack of milk when calving, once cows have calved there is not as much affect
- During the breeding season, fescue can affect embryo development, cows should be removed at least two days prior to breeding and remain off for at least 10 days post breeding as it does not seem to affect the embryo after day 7 of development
- Worse in seed heads, so mowing the seed heads off may help
- Mixing legumes or other grasses into fescue fields will dilute toxicity
- New varieties of fescue similar to Max Q are available. If renovating or planting new pasture, consider these options to increase production and gain

Try pasture rotation:

- When rotating pastures, graze to 4 inches then move animals.
- Allow 4 to 6 weeks of rest.
- During hot, dry summer months having a few paddocks in summer grasses will help during the cool season grass summer slump. Grasses such as bermudagrass and crabgrass are good choices and new varieties are good for grazing.

**** In memory of Fred DeMaio****