

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE

Inspect and calibrate equipment prior to use. Continually monitor during planting to insure proper rate, distribution and depth of planting material is maintained.

Monitor new plantings for water stress.

Depending on the severity of drought, water stress may require reducing weeds, early harvest of any companion crops, irrigating when possible, or replanting failed stands.

GRAZING OR HARVEST MANAGEMENT AFTER PLANTING

The seeded forages will not be grazed or harvested until the seeded forages are well established. A prescribed grazing plan will be followed if competing vegetation will be controlled with grazing. Flash grazing for a very short duration (e.g. less than a day) can be effective. Site specific recommendations should be provided to the participant. Additionally, mowing above the height of the desired forage is allowed to control competing vegetation.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT AFTER ESTABLISHMENT

Participants are encouraged to follow a prescribed grazing plan to provide adequate rest to the established forages. Implementing a rotational grazing system and following recommendations from a prescribed grazing plan will result in greater management of the established forage. Overgrazing is a major cause of weakened or failed forages in pastures.

WEED CONTROL DURING ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD

Apply mechanical, chemical, or biological treatments as needed to control unwanted vegetation. Mow when competing weeds are taller than the planted vegetation, and at a height above the planted vegetation. Use selective herbicides and/or spot spraying to protect the desired species. Refer to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service publication – *Recommended Chemicals for Weed and Brush Control MP44* for herbicide timing and treatment.