

MISSISSIPPI

Proper Use Heights:

Species	Minimum Height To Begin Grazing (Inches)	Minimum Height During Grazing Season ^{1/}	Growth Cycles For Quality Forage ^{3/}
<u>Grasses</u>			
Bahiagrass	5	3 (2)	20 - 28 days
Bermudagrass, Common	5	3 (2)	18 - 28 days
Bermudagrass, Hybrid	6	4 (3)	18 - 28 days
Dallisgrass	5	3 (2)	21 - 30 days
Fescue, Tall ^{4/}	6	4 (3)	21 - 30 days
Johnsongrass	24	10 (6)	21 - 30 days
Big Bluestem	16	6 (5)	25 - 40 days
Caucasian Bluestem	6	4 (3)	25 - 35 days
Indiangrass	8 - 10	6 (5)	25 - 45 days
Eastern Gamagrass	10-12	6 (5)	25 - 45 days
Switchgrass	16	6 (5)	30 - 45 days
Ryegrass/Small Grain ^{2/}	6 - 8	3 (2)	14 - 25 days
<u>Legumes</u>			
Alfalfa	10	6 (4)	28 - 35 days
Annual Lespedeza, Common, Kobe, and Korean	6	3 (2)	20 - 30 days
Clover, Arrowleaf	8	4 (3)	14 - 21 days
Clover, Ball	5	3 (2)	14 - 21 days
Clover, Crimson	6	4 (2)	18 - 25 days
Clover, Sweet	12	6 (4)	21 - 30 days
Clover, White	5	3 (2)	21 - 30 days
Clover, Subterranean	4	2 (1 1/2)	
Lespedeza, Sericea	8	5 (3)	18 - 25 days
Wild Winter Peas	8	4 (3)	
Vetches	8	4 (3)	18 - 28 days

^{1/} Minimum grazing height in () may be used provided certain intensive management practices (rotation grazing, strip grazing, fertilization, etc.) are followed, allowing for a recovery period after grazing. Use normal minimum in all other cases and on all D (8%) and steeper slopes.

^{2/} Begin grazing the ryegrass/small grain/clover mixtures when the grass is 6-8" even though the clover is only 1-2" tall. If the grass gets taller, it will shade out the clover.

^{3/} Based on favorable growing conditions for the plant. Longer cycles will be needed during stress periods. Shorter cycles may be needed during fast growth periods.

^{4/} Do not graze fescue from July 1 through September.

Fertilizer and Lime. Apply at a frequency and rate in order to meet the needs of the plants to maintain desired ground cover for protection from erosion and to produce the desired quality and quantity of forage.

Reseeding Legumes. In grass-legume mixtures where reseeding of the legumes is desired,

defer grazing to the latter part of growing season to allow legumes to mature seeds. Remove surplus growth of grass in excess of 2 inches in September or October to allow legumes to become reestablished. A rotation grazing system is preferred that is designed to insure seed production, seedling establishment and forage production by healthy, vigorous plants.

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NRCS, Mississippi

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