

Table 4. Irrigated Pasture Management Guide for Moderate-Producing Sites

MANAGEMENT LEVEL	GOOD	FAIR	LOW
Grazing Management ^{1/} 1. Intensity of Rotation 2. Available foliage (average height with leaf held in vertical position) 3. Degree of Use 4. Maintenance of stand (average height with leaf held in vertical position). 5. Regrowth period	4 or 5 pastures grazed for 4 to 10 days per rotation.	2 or 3 pastures grazed for 10 to 20 days per rotation.	1 pasture grazed for long periods or continuously.
	Foliage height at beginning of grazing season--8 to 10 inches.	Foliage height at beginning of grazing season--6 inches.	Foliage height at beginning of grazing season--less than 4 inches.
	Stubble height at end of grazing season--3 to 4 inches.	Stubble height at end of grazing season--2 or 3 inches.	Stubble height at end of grazing season--less than 2 inches.
	Foliage height regrowth at freeze-up--5 to 8 inches.	Foliage height regrowth at freeze-up--3 inches.	Foliage height regrowth at freeze-up--less than 2 inches.
	3 weeks or more for regrowth between grazings.	2 weeks for regrowth between grazings.	Continuously grazed with no regrowth period.
Irrigation 1. Frequency 2. Time 3. Time lapse after irrigation before grazing.	Soil moisture usually adequate. 1 or 2 irrigations during regrowth period.	Plant stress frequently apparent between irrigations. Rarely more than 1 irrigation during the regrowth period.	Too much or too little irrigation.
	Irrigated several days after livestock are removed from pasture.	Irrigation frequently delayed a week after livestock are removed from pasture.	Too much or too little irrigation.
	Soil usually firm before grazing is resumed.	Soil frequently wet and soft when grazed.	Irrigated while grazing.
Composition 1. Legumes 2. Grass	30 to 50 percent legume, usually alfalfa.	20 percent legume, usually alfalfa.	Usually less than 10 percent legume. Usually white clover.
	Good stands of adapted, high-producing species.	Stand lacks vigor or may include weeds and poorly adapted or low-producing species.	Poor stand, low vigor, weeds, low-producing species, etc.
Fertilizer 1. Nitrogen 2. Phosphorus	Apply more than 20 lbs. of available N/ac. (or 100 to 120 lbs. N/ac. to straight grass in 2 applications).	Apply less than 20 lbs. of available N/ac. (or 30 to 60 lbs. N/ac. applied to straight grass).	No nitrogen applied.
	Apply in quantity sufficient to supply 40 to 50 lbs. P ₂ O ₅ /ac./year.	Apply less than 30 lbs. of available P ₂ O ₅ at seeding time and only occasionally thereafter.	No phosphorus applied.
Maintenance 1. Clipping 2. Dragging	Rough stemmy growth clipped as needed.	Stemmy growth rarely clipped.	Never clipped.
	Droppings spread by dragging in spring and occasionally in mid-summer.	Droppings are seldom spread by dragging.	Never dragged.
Expected Production --Animal Unit Months per acre per 120-day growing season	5 to 3	4 to 2	2 or less

^{1/} The measurements are for good stands of recommended pasture plants.