

July 2007**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Landowner _____

Weeping Lovegrass

WHAT IS WEEPING LOVEGRASS?

Weeping lovegrass is an introduced, warm season, perennial bunch grass. It is a vigorous growing grass with a large root system.

HOW IT HELPS THE LAND

- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
- Balance forage supply and demand during periods of low forage production.
- Reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Increase carbon sequestration

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

Weeping lovegrass is adapted to most Oklahoma soils (except panhandle) and climate but may freeze out in the northern 1/3 of state. It is best suited on well drained sandy soil. Common varieties include common, Ermelo and Morpa.

APPLYING THE PRACTICE

Preparation: Plant on a well-prepared firm seedbed. If weeds appear before planting time, a light cultivation is desirable to remove competitive vegetation.

Planting Time: Optimum seeding dates are March 1 – May 31.

Planting Rate: Seed: 3 - 5 lbs PLS per acre at a depth of ¼ - ½ inch.

Management During Establishment

During the establishment period, excessive amounts of competitive weedy plants or re-growth of volunteer cover crops (generally, when 3 weeds per square foot or a 50% canopy) should be controlled by the following methods:

- 1. Herbicides.** Chemicals used must be federally and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on label and other federal or state policies and requirements.
- 2. Mowing.** Weeds should be mowed when they reach a height of 6 to 8 inches. Mowing should be above the height of seeded plants. Mowing should not be done when daily maximum air temperature exceeds 95 degrees and the humidity is below 30% to prevent dehydration of the young plants. Generally, mowing should not be done after July 15.
- 3. Grazing.** High density grazing by livestock may be used to control annual grasses and forbs. This method will not be used later than July 15, except when abnormal summer moisture promotes excessive weed production. High density grazing will not be used when the soil is wet and hoof action will damage young plants.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For additional information, contact your local Natural Resource Conservation Service or your local Conservation District office.

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