

USDA NRCS
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Conservation Across America
Pasture Planting
 Job Sheet – 512



Image from Forages 5th Ed. CD Companion

Criteria for Determining Adequacy of Establishment for Perennial Grass Stands*

Grass	Live Plants Uniformly Distributed - Average Number per Sq. Foot		
	Category 1 ¹	Category 2	Category 3
Bermudagrass - seeded or broadcast sprigged	0 - 0.1	0.1 - 0.3	Over 0.3
Bermudagrass - sprigged in 40" rows	< 5 live plants per 100 feet of row	5 - 10 live plants per 100 feet of row	> 10 live plants per 100 feet of row
Kleingrass, Weeping Lovegrass, Tall Fescue	0 - 0.3	0.3 - 1.0	> 1.0
Other Seeded Grasses	0 - 0.2	0.2 - 0.5	> 0.5

¹ **Category 1** - Stand is unsatisfactory and practice should be reapplied.

Category 2 - Stand is marginal - NRCS and the producer will decide whether to reapply or not. Factors to consider are vigor of existing plants, extent of competition, and the desire of the producer.

Category 3 - Stand is satisfactory.

For seeded grasses established after roller chopping, chaining, dozing, or raking (where brush had been previously controlled), and a complete seedbed is not prepared. Use the following categories:

Category 1 - Seeded grasses plus existing preferred and desirables (for intended use) make up < 10% of composition by weight.

Category 2 - Seeded grasses plus existing preferred and desirables (for intended use) make up 10 - 25% of the composition by weight.

Category 3 - Seeded grasses plus existing preferred and desirables (for intended use) make up more than 25% of the composition by weight.

Timing of Stand Determinations

Dryland -

1. For native grasses, introduced bluestems, and bahiagrass, make the determination at the end of the second growing season, unless the grass emerged and died (frost or drought) the first growing season. In that case the determination should be made the first year.

2. For all other grasses, make the determination at the end of the first growing season, unless the grass emerged died earlier in the year. In that case the determination can be made earlier in the first year.

Irrigated Land -

All irrigated grasses - Determination may be made 90 days after planting, provided conditions have been suitable for emergence and growth.

Method of Making Determinations

1. For seeded species and broadcast bermudagrass sprigs or tops, a step count method will provide an adequate means of estimating average number of plants per square foot.
 - Choose a representative area(s) of the field.
 - Predetermine a line across the area and estimate the distance of travel.
 - Divide the distance by 50 to determine spacing between sample sites.
 - Pace the line, stopping at each of the 50 sample sites, and estimate the number of live plants in a square foot at the end of your left foot.
 - Total the number of live plants from all 50 sample sites and divide by 50 to get the number of live plants per square foot.
 - You may use less than 50 sample sites as long as your sample group adequately inventories the area planted.
2. For bermudagrass planted with a sprigger in 40" rows, pick several areas in the field and count the number of live plants per 100 feet of row.
3. For native or mixed species where seedbed is not prepared, clip and weigh vegetation along a predetermined route across a representative area of the field to determine percent composition of the seeded grasses plus preferred and desirables (for intended use).

Other Information

Approximate Number of Sprigs Planted per 100 Feet of 40" Row

Sprigging Rate per Acre	Sprigs per 100 feet of 40" row
5 bu	38
12 bu	86
24 bu	172

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