



## Renovation of Thinning Hybrid Bermudagrass Stands

1. Review the current soil test results. If the pH is below 5.5 add super-fine limestone, in the fall, according to recommendation to correct to pH.
2. If the soil potassium levels are below 150 ppm K apply 200 lb/ac of actual potassium in late April, or after ryegrass stops growing (if ryegrass is present).
3. When nitrogen is applied for spring growth, increase the nitrogen rate by 50 lb/ac to provide additional nutrients to stimulate the growth of roots, stolons, and stems to thicken stand. Apply other nutrients according to recommendation.
4. Graze or hay as usual according to specifications (see Hybrid Bermudagrass Job Sheet), and apply recommended fertility thereafter. Provided ample rainfall the stand should improve in 8-10 weeks.
5. Other practices such as dormant season subsoiling, disking or plowing may be used to renovate declining stands of hybrid bermudagrass if soil compaction, or nutrient and lime accumulation at the surface are suspected to be causing the decline.
6. Prescribed burning may also aid in renovation by removing excess dead forage, warming the soil, and destroying some insects and weeds. However, it also exposes the grass to late season freezes, and could temporarily result in increased soil erosion. Timing of the burn is critical. It should be after spring weed growth begins, but before the bermudagrass begins to grow. Refer to the Prescribed Burning Standard for details on this practice.
7. Replanting of hybrid bermudagrass stands should only be considered when very few live rhizomes are left.

**Sources:** TAEX, and USDA/NRCS Technical Guide

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