

Spring Renovation of Grass Fields with Legumes

Soil test preceding

Apply lime as needed 6 to 12 months prior to renovation

Reduce existing vegetative competition
Graze heavily/hay late fall/early winter

Select legume based on:
Grass present
Planned use
Soil type
Establishment method (do not frost-seed alfalfa)

Prepare field

- Correct phosphorus and potassium in fall before seeding
- Graze heavily preceding fall and spring no-till
- Graze heavily preceding fall and frost-seed late winter/early spring (except alfalfa)
- Use chemical to reduce (not kill) the stand; drill early-spring or frost-seed in late winter/early spring
- Disturb existing vegetation 40 to 60 % and no-till or frost-seed to in late winter/early spring

Do not plant seed over ¼" deep
Control grass competition until legumes are 3 to 4" tall through grazing

Remove livestock after they begin to eat legumes until they are well established

Rotationally graze to maintain legumes
Target 30 to 40% legume cover