

Plant Enhancement Activity- ANM03 - Incorporate Native Grasses and/or Legumes into 15% or more of the forage base

Warm season grass pastures or paddocks can be another management strategy in the grazing system. Warm season grass may provide quality forage at a time when cool season grass production is low due to warmer temperatures. Consider using warm season grasses as complementary pastures when compatible with the landowner's management objectives.

Warm Season Grass species	Cultivar or Variety
Eastern Gamagrass	Pete, Iuka, Highlander
Big Bluestem	Bonanza, Pawnee, Roundtree, Southlow*
Indiangrass	Osage, Oto, Southlow
Switchgrass – Not to be grown in pastures or hayfields used for horse or sheep feed.	Niagra, Blackwell, Cave-in-rock, Trailblazer, Southlow

Plant monocultures of warm season grasses for pasture and hay production. If grasses of similar maturity are planned, mixes may be acceptable.

Warm Season Grass	Seeding Rate Pounds per Acre	Seeding Depth inches
Big bluestem	10	1/4-1/2
Indiangrass	10	1/4-1/2
Switchgrass	5-8	1/4-1/2
Little bluestem	8	1/4-1/2
Eastern Gamagrass	10	1-1 1/2

Seeding Dates For Native Species	
Type of Seeding ¹	Warm Season Native Species (Includes Prairie Restoration Mixtures)
UPPER PENINSULA	
Spring	May 15 - June 30
Late Summer	Not Recommended
Dormant	Not Recommended
Frost ⁵	Not Recommended
NORTH 1/2 OF LOWER MICHIGAN (north of US 10)	
Spring	May 10 - June 15
Late Summer	Not Recommended
Dormant	Not Optimal ²
Frost	Not Recommended
SOUTH 1/2 OF LOWER MICHIGAN (south of US 10)	
Spring	May 5 - June 15
Late Summer	Not Recommended
Dormant	Not Optimal ²
Frost	Not Recommended

¹ All seeding should be done with good soil moisture levels - not saturated nor too dry to germinate seed.

² Only for Eastern Gamagrass and certain cultivars of Switchgrass. Only when bare soil is not an erosion risk. Seed November 1 - March 1