

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management *Prescribed Grazing for wildlife*

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

647(b)



A minimum height of grass and or forbs will be 8 inches at the end of the prescribed grazing period.

Do not graze during the primary nesting season (April 15 – August 15).

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the back page and additional provisions are entered on the job sketch. Specifications are prepared in accordance with VA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Refer to practice standards Upland Wildlife Habitat Management code 645, and Early Successional Habitat Development code 647.

Definition

Prescribed grazing for wildlife is the process of disturbing soil and existing vegetation in an area by using livestock.

Purpose

Prescribed grazing for wildlife disturbs the ground surface and vegetation to prevent an area from going through succession. Prescribed grazing for wildlife increases plant diversity and temporarily reduces the plant allowing for improved wildlife movement.

Requirements

If the area to be grazed is a grassland field, the area must be established for a minimum of three years before initiating prescribed grazing for wildlife.

Prescribed grazing is limited to no more than once every three years on any one area. If the area is to be maintained as early shrubland, then the area should be grazed only once from 3-6 years.

Operation and maintenance

For best results, graze the areas in late winter to early spring.