



# Iowa Native Prairie Planting Guide



## TERMINATE & RESEED - FALL HERBICIDE ONLY

*Option 2 of Increasing forb diversity in native grass-dominated stands*

### FALL HERBICIDE ONLY

*Note: Consider this option when the introduced plant community is < than 50% of the plant composition.*

#### Steps

1. **Late July – Early August: Mow or hay the native grass stand.**
  - Mowing at 6–8” of height will help to ensure the regrowth needed before spraying.
  - \* Mowing at 3” can be advantageous if you are not following up with a prescribed burn to reduce the duff; but you risk not getting the needed regrowth when conditions are dry. Mow 3–4” when introduced grasses are the primary concern.
  - \* For CRP, you can’t mow until Aug. 2.
2. **Aug. 25 – Sept. 15: Spray glyphosate**
  - Warm season grasses will go dormant in early fall. Wait for 6–8” of new regrowth before spraying.
  - 2 quarts/acre when the active ingredient is 41%. (Follow label instructions.)
  - If the site is not mowed, the native grasses will become dormant sooner. Spray by Sept. 10. *It is difficult to get herbicide coverage without mowing first.*
  - If Canada thistle, perennial introduced legumes, or other hard to terminate exotic species are present, increase the application rate based on label instructions.
  - If introduced species are an issue, spray closer to the Sept. 15 date.

#### Steps

#### **3a. Burn first, then seed**

1. Complete a fall or dormant prescribed burn.

2. Complete the seeding by broadcasting or drilling by Feb. 15 to give time for the forb seed to be stratified.

#### **3b. Seed first, then burn**

1. Broadcast or drill the seeding into the existing stand in the dormant season.
2. Complete a prescribed burn at the end of dormant season.

*Note: The seed needs time to be worked down through the plant material and duff layer by the snow and rain before completing the prescribed burn. Seed on the soil surface is < exposed to the prairie fire. A way to demonstrate this is to place toothpicks and/or marshmallows on the soil surface before completing the prescribed fire. In many cases the toothpicks will be lying there uncharred and the marshmallows unmelted.*

#### **3c. Hay/Graze, then seed (no burn)**

1. In the fall, hay or graze to reduce the duff layer.
2. Broadcast seed if 50% of the soil is exposed otherwise complete the seeding using a drill in the dormant season.

#### **For all three scenarios:**

4. **Mow**
  - Mow 1<sup>st</sup> at 3–4” in height when the average height of the tall native grass component is 12” tall.
  - Continue mowing as the tall grass reaches 12–15”. Increase the mower height to 5–6” after the 1<sup>st</sup> mowing.
  - Mow a minimum of 2 to 3 times during the second year.

*Note: Apply a grass selective herbicide when the tall native grass component is actively growing, in lieu of some of the mowings. Caution: This will kill any new grass seedlings!*

# Iowa Native Prairie Planting Guide Notes