

Illinois Grazing Manual Fact Sheet

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Prescribed Grazing Tables



Table 1: Minimum Heights of Pasture Species for Initiating and Terminating Grazing

Species and Mixtures	Minimum/ Optimum Height of Vegetative Growth 1/	Minimum Grazing Height 2/	Minimum Regrowth Before Killing Frost	Approximate Data to Begin Reset for Winter protection, by Plant Suitability Zones 3/		
				I	II	III
COOL SEASON (C3s)	INCHES Begin Grazing	INCHES Begin Grazing	INCHES			
Alfalfa/Timothy/Orchardgrass	6-8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Alfalfa/Orchardgrass	6-8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Alfalfa/Timothy/Bromegrass	6-8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Ladino Clover/Orchardgrass	8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Red Clover/Ladino Clover/Orchardgrass	8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Red Clover/Ladino Clover/Tall Fescue	6-8	3	5		9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Birdsfoot Trefoil/Timothy	5	3	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	
Ladino Clover/Bromegrass	5	3	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	
Orchardgrass	6-8	3	8	4/	4/	4/
Tall Fescue	6-8	3	8	4/	4/	4/
Alfalfa/Tall Fescue	6-8	3	8		9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Ladino Clover/Tall Fescue	5	3	8		9/15-10/15	
Alsike Clover/Ladino Clover/Timothy	5	2	5	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	
Ladino Clover/Alsike Clover/Reed Canarygrass	6	4	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	
Ladino Clover/Alsike Clover/Tall Fescue	5	3	8		9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Alfalfa/Bromegrass	6-8	4	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Sericea Lespedeza/Tall Fescue	10	4	8			9/20-10/20
Korean Lespedeza/Tall Fescue	6	4	8			9/20-10/20
Bromegrass 5/	4	2	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
WARM SEASON (C4s)						
Switchgrass	18	8 6/	10	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Indiangrass	18	8 6/	10	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Big Bluestem	18	8 6/	10	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20
Eastern Gammagrass	20	10 6/	15	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/20-10/20

- 1/ Minimum plant heights are to be reached before grazing is permitted in the spring or following a rest period resulting from rotational grazing. Management Intensive Grazing (MIG) systems (8 or more pastures) can reduce the height by 50%.
- 2/ Minimum plant heights below which grazing is not permitted.
- 3/ Protection from fall grazing is required for one month before a killing frost. Remove livestock on or before the dates shown and do not permit grazing before a killing frost occurs.
- 4/ No restrictions.
- 5/ May include other species such as redtop, timothy, quackgrass, or white clover.
- 6/ Leave a 10" stubble at end of grazing season until after first killing frost.

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