

EVALUATION OF HERBACEOUS FIELD PLANTINGS

COOPERATOR: _____ PLANTING NUMBER: _____ FIELD OFFICE: _____

EVALUATION DATE: _____ EVALUATOR(S): _____

PURPOSE(S): Hay /Pasture Improvement Grazing / Range Improvement Erosion Control Pollinators Species Education
 Wildlife Cover / Food Saline Area Improvement New Species Testing Restoration

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION: Below Average Average Above Average Nearest Inches: _____

Weather Notes _____

Species Information: Each column represents a species (write in species at top). Provide species average.

	Species		
	1.	2.	3.
Plants Density (average number of seeded species per square foot)			
Canopy Cover (average %)			
Height (inches) lush and absolute height	/	/	/
Forage Production (grams dry weight / ft ²)			
Utilization (%)			
Ability to Spread (Yes / No)			
Seed Production (none, sparse, moderate, abundant)			
Flower Production (B, %, A)			
Wildlife Use (percent of plants/area with wildlife use sign)			
Wildlife Type (species or lifeform using the plantings)			
Weed Canopy Cover (0%, 1%, 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%....)			
Plant Injury (winter, insect, wildlife pesticide, disease, fire, machine, drought)			
Average Injury (Percent of plant affected)			
Erosion Control (Rate 1 to 10; 1=obvious loss, 10=stable)			
Percent Bare Ground / Litter Cover	/	/	/
Infiltration 1 = excessive runoff; 3 = some runoff; 5 = no runoff.			
Flood / Water Tolerance (NA, strong (10-20 days), moderate (5-10 days), mild (5 days).			
Annual Maintenance (none, mow, spray, pull weeds/grass, fertilize, irrigation, cultivate)			
Cooperators Rating:			

Comments	1.	2.	3.

INSTRUCTIONS: Using a representative area, use the following instructions to evaluate each species.

Plant Density is a count of the number of seeded species per square foot. Count grass tillers and forbs by individual plants.

Canopy Cover: is the percentage of ground covered by the vertical projection of a species / lifeform. Use figures to help in estimating percent canopy cover.

Height is measured as the distance from the ground to where stems and leaves intersect (lush height) and the top of inflorescence (absolute height). Collect both.

Forage Production is a measure of the yield. Clip all above-ground vegetation by species in a 1 ft² area. Clip as close to the ground as possible. Label the paper bag, dry the sample for 48 hours, weigh the sample.

Utilization is the percent of current year forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

Ability to Spread measures reproductive ability of the species. Are new shoots or new plants establishing in the area. (Yes / No)

Seed Production measures reproductive ability of the species. Are seeds present, or is there evidence of production within the evaluation year. (none, sparse = scattered individuals, moderate, abundant = most individual plants)

Flower Production: B = before bloom, Percent Bloom: the average percent of developing bloom that have reached open flower stage (10%, 20%, etc.), A = after bloom

Wildlife Use: Determine the percent of plants/area used by wildlife. Look for wildlife present as well as signs of use (scat, beds, nests, rubs, burrows, browse, etc.).

Wildlife Type: Identify the species or lifeform (birds, small mammals, reptiles) using the plantings.

Plant Injury: Has the plant species been injured by winter (kill, frost cracks, sun scald, ice and snow breakage, spring freeze), insects (herbivory, bores, galls), wildlife (rubs, girdling, breakage), pesticide (twisting, bent shoots, discoloration, kill), disease (loss of needles/leaves, discoloration, cankers), fire (burn marks, brown needles), mechanical (mower), drought (rolled or yellow leaves, wilting, scorching, drop leaves early)

Average Injury: Of the individual plants affected, what average percent of the plant has impacts.

Erosion Control: Wind erosion signs may include scouring (dish or crater like removal of soil), blowouts causing soil loss, deposition of soil, and litter movement. Water erosion signs may include soil and litter movement, litter deposition as a result of flow patterns, rills and gullies, and pedestaling of plants. 1 = obvious soil loss, 3=well defined erosion, 5=Evidence seen, 7=few signs, 10=stable site.

Percent Bare Ground / Litter Cover: Records the percent of ground that is bare soil or rocks < an inch in size. Record the percent of the ground covered by vegetative litter that is in contact with the soil. Use figure above for estimating percent cover.

Infiltration is a measure of soil physical properties and water cycling. 1 = water ponds 24 hours after rain event, excessive runoff; 3 = water ponds for short periods, some runoff; 5 = no water ponding or runoff.

Flood / Water Tolerance rates the species tolerance to intermittent flooding or saturated soils. (NA, strong (10-20 days), moderate (5-10 days), mild (5 days).

Annual Maintenance: Has annual maintenance occurred? (None, mowing, spray, pull weeds/grass, fertilize, irrigation, cultivation)

Cooperator Rating: Does the cooperator feel the planting met the objectives?

Canopy Cover percentages

