Guidance on using the Iowa Native Prairie Guide – Increasing forb diversity in native grass-dominated stands

Consider Interseeding options if:
1. If < 30% of native stand is made up of introduced species and
2. desirable forbs are present and
3. you can mow often
   • mowing every two weeks for 2 years may be needed to reduce competition from the tall grasses, to ensure the new seedlings have space to develop
   • need to reduce the duff layer before interseeding by prescribed fire, haying or grazing. Mowing the fall before can work if drilling.

If > than 30% of native stand is made up of introduced species go to Termination Options.
• All termination options require full seed mixes.

Termination options
If > 50% of native stand is made up of introduced species go to Terminate Option 1 – Fall & Spring Spray
• Our first concern is eradication introduce species present before we complete a new seeding.
• Use Iowa Native Prairie Guide - Planting Native Prairie into Cool Season Sod

If <50% of native stand is made up of introduced species go to Terminate Option 2 – Fall Spray & Seed
• a fall spray will do a good job diminishing the introduced species
• will allow for a dormant planting which is favorable to establishing forbs

If <30% of native stand is made up of introduced species and desirable forbs are present Terminate Option 3 – Spring Herbicide Only can be considered.
• Has potential to be advantageous to releasing the existing forbs. Spring glyphosate will set back the perennial grasses harder than the perennial forbs.
• If no fall work was completed can allow a seeding to take place without losing a growing season
• Disadvantage: some forb seeds won’t germinate in this first growing season without going through the cold-moist stratification.

When producer is opting for not using pesticides, go to Organic Transition Options
• Moldboard plowing must be completed with follow-up tillage to prepare the seedbed.

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